

Peace hopes switch to superpower summit as more hostages prepare to fly home

## Angry Iraqis scorn Thatcher war crimes call

By Philip Webster and Michael Knipe

IRAQI responded angrily yesterday to the prime minister's warning that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq should face a Nuremberg-style trial for war crimes at the end of the Gulf confrontation.

The Iraqi news agency said Margaret Thatcher had lost her psychological balance and was destined for electoral defeat. It called the British prime minister "a grey-haired old woman".

The angry exchange occurred as the focus of hope for a peaceful solution of the crisis switched from the failed mission of the United Nations secretary general in Amman at the weekend to the East-West summit scheduled to take place in Helsinki next Sunday.

In Baghdad, a further 130 women and children, including 25 Britons, were reported by Western diplomats to be ready to leave after the departure of nearly 700 Western and Japanese hostages from Baghdad on three aircraft yesterday.

An Air France plane scheduled to collect them was delayed.

Jesse Jackson, the American civil rights activist who secured the release of a group of Americans during a visit to Baghdad, said that President Saddam had promised that all Western women and children would be free to leave within days.

With the West's primary hopes for resolving the crisis still centred on UN sanctions, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that Britain was considering the feasibility

of imposing an air blockade on Iraq. Mr Hurd, who is touring the Gulf, said that breaches of sanctions by aircraft was not a significant problem yet. One calculation was that Iraq would run out of money to pay for air shipments because of the blocking of its oil trade.

However, the foreign secretary discounted the prospect of an early political solution to the crisis, saying: "We have to settle down for a long haul."

In Kuwait, where the diplomatic community is under

do what we did at Nuremberg and prosecute the requisite people for their totally uncivilised and brutal behaviour. We are all making due note of the people who do it, because in these days they cannot say 'we were only acting under orders'."

She denounced the Iraqi leader as a loser... "fanatical, calculating and brutal" rather than mad, with no regard for human life, liberty or justice.

Mrs Thatcher's tone jarred with the Gulf Support Group, which was set up to help hostages and their families. Joanna Copley, its joint co-ordinator, said Mrs Thatcher's "extremely aggressive" stance was not helpful. Threats of war trials were "at the very least extremely impolitic".

As MPs prepared to return to Westminster later this week for a two-day debate on the Gulf, the Labour leadership emphasised that it would continue to support the government so long as it acted with the authority of the United Nations.

Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, who flew to Paris yesterday after announcing the failure of his talks with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, is to discuss the Gulf crisis with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German foreign minister, and Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, today.

Senator Perez de Cuellar, admitting his failure in a French television interview, said his hopes of a negotiated resolution to reverse the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait rested on the talks in Helsinki next Sunday between Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, and the American president George Bush.

Pravda, the Soviet Communist party newspaper, said East-West relations would be one of the casualties of any armed conflict between America and Iraq.

Señor Perez de Cuellar said Mr Aziz had promised that Iraq would consider dropping its decision to close down embassies in Kuwait. He added that he had failed to move the Iraqi foreign minister in spite of some tough talking. "He listened to me with great patience. Yet God knows I told him unpleasant things."

The secretary general said he was under the impression that Iraq was playing for time



Hostage homecoming: Jesse Jackson at Heathrow airport yesterday with Stewart Lockwood, the five-year-old British hostage who was forced to appear with Saddam Hussein in Iraqi television last week (below)



to consolidate its annexation of Kuwait. "Time is playing against peace," he said.

UN officials, meanwhile, said that they would increase aid to an estimated 60,000 Asian refugees from Kuwait who were stranded in the Jordanian desert. In Dhahran, Saudi Arabian sources said the country's oil output had been increased by two million barrels a day to more than seven million.

The Iraqi information director Naji al-Hadithi said in Baghdad that visits by foreign correspondents were being limited to four or five days

## Liberia force advances

FROM AGENCIES IN ABIDJAN

A FIVE-NATION West African peacekeeping force was reported yesterday to have taken control of central Monrovia and set up heavy artillery at strategic points in the Liberian capital.

Ghana, meanwhile, warned Charles Taylor, leader of the main Liberian rebel faction, that it holds him personally responsible for the safety of Ghanaian hostages in Liberia.

The warning, by the government of President Rawlings, came after a report that Mr Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia had murdered 200 Ghanaians and Nigerians because their governments are involved in the peacekeeping force.

The Ghana News Agency, which has a correspondent with the 3,000-man force, yesterday quoted Ghanaian Lieutenant-Colonel George Ayikua as saying his troops had overcome stiff resistance on Saturday from rebels loyal to Mr Taylor.

The agency reported that the task force's units had advanced beyond Spriggs-Payne airfield in eastern Monrovia in an effort to reach embassies of three of the countries contributing to the force, Ghana, Nigeria and Guinea.

## M1 report calls for reverse seats

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

INTERNATIONAL research into rearward-facing seats and full safety harnesses for all airline passengers are among 31 safety recommendations in the final report into the M1 air disaster, which will be submitted to Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, today.

The recommendations follow a 19-month enquiry by the Air Accident Investigation Branch into the causes of the crash, near Kegworth, Leicestershire, of a British Midland Boeing 737-400 in which 47 people died after the pilots shut down the wrong engine when a broken fan blade led to severe vibration and a smell of smoke in the cockpit.

Most recommendations in the report have already been acted upon by the Civil Aviation Authority, or are the subject of research, but calls for rear-facing seats are likely to be resisted by airlines, aircraft manufacturers and regulatory authorities around the world because of the cost, passenger resistance and the risk that they could lead to other problems. Nonetheless, a research programme is now planned involving safety authorities in Europe and the United States.

The 145-page report has four more safety recommendations than the draft version. Interested parties, such as the aircraft's makers, the airline and the pilots, have 21 days in which to seek judicial review of the findings, but it is expected that none will and that the full report will be made public in a month's time.

The report does not cast blame on anyone for the accident, but describes how the two pilots inadvertently shut down the wrong engine. The pilots, says the report, "reacted prematurely" to heavy vibration from the engines, which was "outside their training and experience", in a way that was "contrary to their training."

They did not, says the synopsis of the report, "assimilate all the indications of the engine display". Most of the safety recommendations relate to changes that the investigators believe should be introduced in the training of aircrew and in instrument displays on Boeing 737-400s.

One of the main recommendations is that the engine instrument system of the aircraft be modified "to include an attention-getting facility to draw attention to each vibration indicator when it indicates maximum vibration".

At the inquest into the victims' deaths, it was said that when the aircraft began to vibrate, the co-pilot, David McClelland, was asked which engine was causing the problem and replied: "It's the left one, it's the right one". The aircraft's commander, Kevin Hunt, who is still in a wheelchair due to his injuries, told the inquest that he did not find new electronic instruments in the 737-400 as good as the needles and pointers in older aircraft. Neither pilot recalled seeing the right-hand

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

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Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

Continued on page 20, col 1

## Kashmir reign of terror by Indian troops

From Christopher Thomas in Diver, Kashmir

INDIAN troops have instituted a reign of terror in the Muslim villages throughout the Kashmir Valley in an effort to stamp out the separatist rebellion. Muslims accuse the armed forces of murder, arson, mass arrests and rape.

The separatists have ordered a one-week general strike across the beleaguered valley from today in a defiant gesture against the Indian security forces, who have gained the upper hand in a year-long onslaught.

Impoverished villages like Diver, deep in the Kashmir mountains, have suffered brutal treatment at the hands of soldiers and paramilitary forces. Hundreds of men from the Border Security Force (BSF) swarmed into this peasant farming community at 4 am on Friday and took 32 young men to an unknown destination for interrogation.

Two youths were shot dead in the dusty main street during the round-up and many men were beaten unconscious with rifle butts and *lathis* (bamboo clubs).

The elderly village barber, his body a mass of vivid bruises and lacerations, is unable to walk. In the centre of the village the charred remains of large numbers of houses are a reminder of the last time security forces vented their anger on Diver, earlier this summer. The burning of houses and shops is an increasingly common tactic.

Villagers throughout rural Kashmir say that large numbers of young men are constantly carried away by security forces for questioning.

In the small town of Kupwara, known for its staunch support for the militant uprising, a young man showed wounds that he said were inflicted during an 18-day detention in which electric shocks were administered and driven in an army lorry for a very long time, and then thrown out into the road," he said. "I made my way home by bus."

Security forces have mounted reprisals against entire villages. Adina, population 2,000, was besieged by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) men after an attack by militants in the area on July 8, in which ten policemen were injured. The burnt remains of 136 houses, 100 cattle sheds and dozens of paddy store-houses bear witness to what happened. Villagers watched

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

Continued on page 20, col 5

## TUC to vote on jobs laws

The TUC Congress will today vote in favour of employment law proposals in line with Labour Party policy, despite claims that they are divided on the issue.

The vote will be welcomed by Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, as the start of a new understanding. But Michael Howard, the Employment Secretary, is expected to claim that Labour is still the prisoner of union barons. Page 20

## Post box crime

Pornographers, drug smugglers, terrorists, fraudsters and confidence tricksters are making fortunes through the illegal use of "post box" addresses amid evidence of muddle and ignorance among government departments, local authority officials, police and businessmen. Page 4

## Economic split

The Russian Federation's parliament opens today with a programme of radical legislation likely to widen the rift with the central Soviet authorities. Page 9

## Mourners gassed

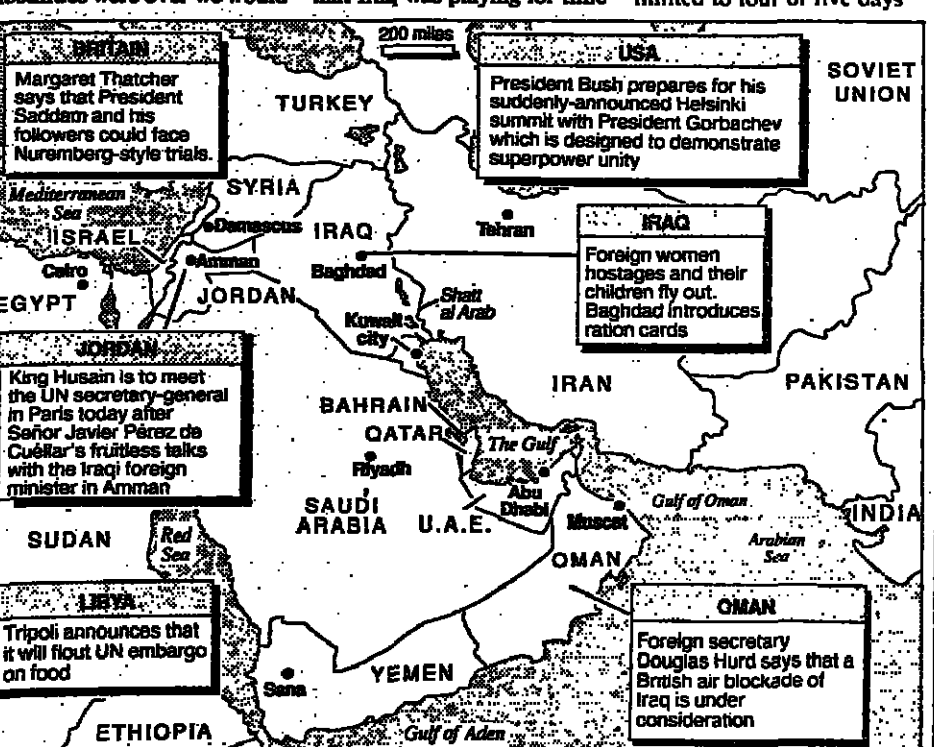
One day after they were condemned by a judge for killing 11 blacks without justification, South African police admitted yesterday that they used teargas on mourners at the funerals of four victims of the country's black-against-black violence. Page 9

## Degree courses

A full list of vacancies remaining for degree courses at British universities, polytechnics and colleges is published today. Pages 31-33

## INDEX

Aerospace Report	25-30
Arts	16-18
Births, marriages, deaths	13
Business	21-24
Court & Social	12
Crosswords	13, 20
Leading articles	11
Letters	11
Obituary	12
Sport	35-40
TV & Radio	19
Weather	20



## Fear in theatreland as Holmes à Court dies

By Alan Hamilton

ASHIVER ran through the West End yesterday at news that Robert Holmes à Court, the leading landlord of London theatreland, had died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Western Australia at the age of 53.

Once the richest man in his adopted homeland but a victim of the 1987 stock market crash, Mr Holmes à Court was the most retiring of a posse of Australian entrepreneurs who have in recent years made their mark in Britain; his share of the old country at his death consisted primarily of 13 West End theatres, one quarter of all those in London, including the Coliseum, the Palladium, Her Majesty's, the Garrick and the Lyric.

His death leaves a cloud of uncertainty over a notoriously fickle business. Derek Williams, chief

executive of Heytesbury, Mr Holmes à Court's private company, said yesterday that it was too early to say what would happen to the theatres. He expected to fly out soon to see the owner's widow, Janet, in whose hands their long-term future will now lie. One possibility already being aired is an attempted management buy-out.

Uncertainty over the future will be most keenly felt at the Coliseum, whose tenants are the English National Opera, and whose lease runs out in 1996. The building needs an estimated £60 million spent on modernisation and while Mr Holmes à Court indicated he was willing to help to raise the money, he was against ENO buying the freehold.

Last year Mr Holmes à Court appeared to have rescued the British Theatre Association and its world-

renowned library by giving it money and space in his West End headquarters. Within a year it had ceased operating when it found that its new home was not rent-free; the Office of Arts and Libraries intervened and had hoped to announce a compromise solution soon.

Among Mr Holmes à Court's other British holdings were the theatrical costumers Bermans and Nathans, property in Soho and Regents Park, a share of the Golden Wonder potato crisp business and a 6.6 per cent stake in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Company, where it was believed that the Australian's ultimate aim was to gain ownership of Mr Lloyd Webber's Palace theatre, currently the home of *Les Miserables*.

Born in South Africa of British descent, Mr Holmes à Court inherited

his surname from Norman ancestors who arrived in England soon after the conquest, and whose present English branch are the Heytesburys of Buckinghamshire, after whom he named both his company and the racehorse stud near Perth where he died. Such was the amount of time that he spent in England that he maintained identical apartments in Melbourne and London, with the same furniture and even identical clothes in the wardrobes.

But he never regained the grasp on his former empire after the 1987 crash, and suffered a particular indignity earlier this year when he was relieved of his chairmanship of the Western Australia state art gallery.

Obituary, page 12  
Doubts over deals, page 21



## THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

## Holding of hostages no bar to military action, says Thatcher



Thatcher: President Saddam could be tried for war crimes

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher said yesterday that the taking of hostages in Kuwait could not be allowed to stand in the way of military action against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The prime minister also warned that President Saddam and his followers could face Nuremberg-style trials as war criminals if the hostages were harmed. The Iraqi leader, who might within five years have a nuclear arsenal, and other potential aggressors must understand Britain's readiness to use nuclear weapons against them if necessary, she said in a long interview on *Frost on Sunday*, the TV-am programme. Her uncompromising line, delivered as British hostages arrived home, was criticised by the Gulf Support Group set up to help hostages and their families.

Mrs Thatcher said it was a decision of anguish but went on: "If you allow the taking of hostages, terrible as it is, to determine your own action against a dictator, he has won, and all he will ever do or anyone else with similar ambitions will ever do, is

to take hostages knowing that other people will never take the requisite action to stop such a dictator.

"So I am afraid we would have to take the necessary action which we feel vital to stop a dictator even though he still held hostages."

The support group was yesterday considering protesting to Mrs Thatcher. Joanna Copley, its joint co-ordinator, said: "I feel total despair that anyone can say that." She added: "Some years ago I remember a woman whose son was lost in the desert and she was utterly desperate. Her name was Mrs Thatcher. Today, there are many mothers whose sons are effectively lost in the desert. Does Mrs Thatcher not feel for them?"

She said the prime minister's "extremely aggressive stance" was not helping the people who were telephoning for comfort. The group was receiving an increasing number of calls from people distraught at Mrs Thatcher's policy and pronouncements. "They feel she does not care what happens to them. These are people who are desperate to get their families back safe, and not in a coffin," she said.

Mrs Thatcher told David Frost,

her interviewer: "If anything happened to those hostages then, sooner or later, when any hostilities were over, we could do what we did at Nuremberg and prosecute the requisite people for their totally uncivilised and brutal behaviour."

"We are all making due note of the people who do it, because in these days they cannot say 'We were only acting under orders'. If they are doing something which is totally cold and cruel and brutal then, they could, in fact, be prosecuted later. I don't want them to think they are going to get away with it because they won't," she warned.

Mrs Thatcher repeated that the military option was not ruled out. She said that sanctions would take time to work but suggested they should be given "a few months". The stronger the world was on sanctions, the more likely President Saddam was to withdraw from Kuwait without the military option having to be exercised.

She also reiterated her criticism of those European states which were slow to respond to the call to defend the area, saying: "There they are all talking about political union, talking, talking, talking ...

And what happens? Well, you saw

Mrs Thatcher praised President Bush for his "very distinguished and decisive leadership". She believed that Iraq would have gone on to invade Saudi Arabia had the deterrent force not been established. "I think he would have gone on to some of the other small kingdoms in the Gulf and he could, in fact, have taken over countries who have 60 per cent of the world's oil reserves."

"But the real reason we went in was to make it quite clear that in this end of this 20th century you cannot sit back when someone invades another country and takes it by force. If you do that there is not international law, no country is safe." The secondary reason was that most of the world's oil reserves were in the Middle East but in the hands of different countries. "If they ever fell into the hands of one country and a person like Saddam Hussein who uses force and intimidation, the rest of us could be blackmailed."

She said of President Saddam: "This man is a loser. It is not for us to say what should happen to him within Iraq. That is for the people of Iraq who have suffered griev-

ously through his eight-year war with Iran. We believe that there were 100,000 people killed in that war, and he did not gain a single thing from it."

Mrs Thatcher said she could not know what the domestic results would be for President Saddam on his withdrawal from Kuwait. "We do know that a person who has taken hostages, cruelly, brutally, and a person who has hidden behind the skirts of women and children, is now manipulating them and using them, and although he let some of them go, and they should never have been taken, he is obviously using their husbands and sons and not letting them go."

"That sort of person really would have to be brought before the court of public opinion internationally."

When Frost asked if this meant President Saddam being brought before the court of international public opinion or be tried more specifically, she retorted: "No, I mean international justice, that each of us would be in a position, as at the Nuremberg trials, to bring charges to bear and to have them heard. I do not regard him as mad. I regard him as totally calculating,

brutal with no regard whatsoever for the dignity or rights of the individual, none whatsoever."

"Calculating, not mad, fanatical in that his personal ambitions must come before everything and everyone else. And he has no regard for human life or liberty or justice."

She went on: "Time is not on his side. He is faced with a resolute reaction from the other countries of the Gulf who requested the help of the Western countries, a reaction which I do not believe he ever anticipated."

Mrs Thatcher said: "You have to deter an aggressor by making it absolutely clear that if he moved, we would be strong enough together to beat him. That is the purpose of a very strong defence and, of course, it is the purpose of the nuclear weapon."

Should Iraq get a nuclear weapon "all of that means we have to keep our defences strong. We have to keep our nuclear weapons because in the end anyone who tries any military ventures must know, and it must be clear to him, from what we have and our determination to use it against him if need be, that he could not win."

## Hostages home but hearts are still with those they left behind

By MARK SOUSTER

BRITISH hostage wives and children arrived at Heathrow early yesterday morning, exhausted, elated to be home and free, but also intensely anxious for the menfolk they have had to leave behind in Iraq.

Most were reluctant to talk to the media. Those who did speak preferred to do so in general terms rather than go into detail about their experiences as detainees in Kuwait and Iraq with the threat of war hanging over them. Their reticence was understandable since they have no wish to jeopardise the precarious existence of their husbands and fathers still trapped in the Gulf.

Without exception, and in spite of the circumstances in which they were held, they spoke highly of the discipline of the Iraqi soldiers they had encountered. One said everyone had been treated "with utter decorum and civility. They behaved faultlessly".

Many of those who returned were among the 340 passengers detained who had been on British Airways Flight 149 which was unexpectedly caught up in the Iraqi invasion on August 2. What was then to have been a short scheduled stopover at Kuwait airport turned into a month of turmoil and uncertainty.

Among those returning was Stuart Lockwood, aged five, the English boy who appeared in a television broadcast standing uncomfortably at the side of President Saddam Hussein. He arrived with his mother, Glenda, aged 39, and brother Craig, 14, but without

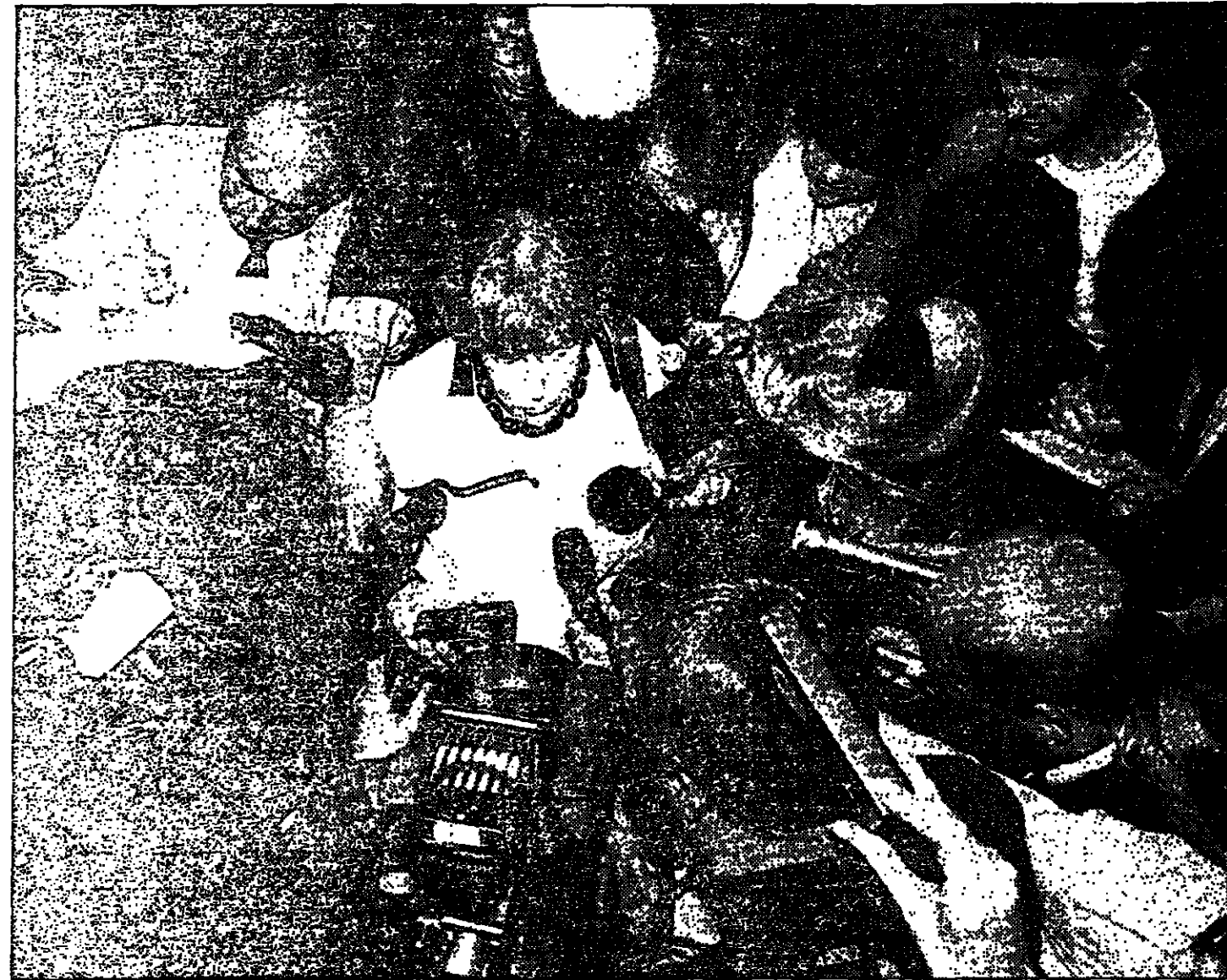
his father Derek. Mrs Lockwood was reluctant to say too much about Stuart's television appearance as his father, aged 42, whom she last saw on Thursday, is still in captivity.

The family had been in Kuwait, where she was employed as head-teacher of an English play group, when the Iraqis invaded. She said: "We are all very tired, but we are relieved to be home. We hope my husband will be back soon. My heart is still with him. I had no choice but to leave for the children's sake."

British-born Erica Masters, originally from Wimbledon, southwest London and now living in Australia, said she felt "marvellous" and that a great spirit of camaraderie endured among the passengers from the flight who were held together for three days at an airport hotel.

They had been taken by armed guard from the airport as bombs started to drop on to the runway. She said it took some time for the reality of the situation to sink in among the passengers, who hours earlier had been thinking only of holidays, returning to work, or a reunion with families.

When the passengers were split up, 110 of them were moved to the Regency Palace Hotel in Kuwait City "where we lived a life of unimaginable luxury with extremely good food, the use of a sports centre and running track which we all walked around at great speed", and a swimming pool which was shared on occasion with Iraqi soldiers. At night



Welcome crush: Erica Masters at Heathrow saying: "We wanted for nothing but realised one thing we did not have was freedom"

the hostages organised quizzes and gathered around a piano in the dining room for sing-songs.

"We wanted for nothing but realised the one thing we did not have was freedom," said Miss Masters.

One evening during their detention, Iraqi soldiers entered the hotel and forced everyone to stay in the dining room while they searched for somebody in the

rooms. "We were all very nervous."

During the search, a camera and wallet were taken. The soldiers who took them were forced to return the valuables by their commanding officer. "I leave it to your imagination what happened to the soldiers," she said.

Ten days ago they were finally moved to an undisclosed location before being transferred on Thurs-

day to Baghdad in a bus on which the air-conditioning system did not work. The journey took 16 hours in sweltering heat. By Saturday rumours grew that women and children would be allowed to leave. "It was a day of uncertainty. One minute we were told we were leaving, then, no you are not, then maybe. It was an up and down day before we finally left ..."

Pene Matheson who has also left her husband in Kuwait spoke yesterday of her deep anxiety for his well-being. Mrs Matheson, who has lived and worked in Kuwait for 13 years, said: "I am very very stretched emotionally. It is a very anxious time. I am terribly worried about him."

Mrs Matheson, who worked for a furnishing company, last saw her husband three days ago

## Gulf acts 'need UN backing'

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S support for the government's response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will be maintained provided it continues to act within the United Nations, Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said yesterday.

With Parliament being recalled this week to debate the Gulf, the consensus on British policy will be tested by the likely attempt by up to 30 Labour MPs led by Tony Benn to force a division in the Commons over attacking the military build-up.

But the truce between the two front benches will survive, with backing from Neil Kinnock for the government's actions so far.

It became clear yesterday, however, that bipartisanship in Britain over the Gulf would almost certainly break down if the United States, supported by Britain, took action against Iraq outside the authority of the UN.

In her TV-am interview yesterday, Margaret Thatcher said that military action would be authorised by returning to the UN for specific authority. But it would also be legal, without the passage of further specific resolutions by the UN, under article 51 of the UN Charter. "Either way would be fully legal," she said.

However, Mr Kaufman, interviewed by Brian Walden on London Weekend Television, made plain that Labour believed military action should require specific authorisation from the United Nations.

"The whole object of this exercise is to uphold the authority of the UN and to uphold the authority of the world community," he said. "It is the authority of the UN which is crucial. I believe the authority of the UN can prevail."

## Waldegrave says more Britons may be allowed out soon

By MARK SOUSTER

AS THE first British hostages to be released from Iraq arrived in London yesterday amid scenes of joy mixed with concern at the predicament of husbands and fathers left behind, the government said that many more of the 2,000 Britons still held in the Gulf region could soon be free.

Last night the Foreign Office said about 25 Britons could be among 130 Westerners who may fly out on Air France today. Late yesterday Iraq revealed it had granted exit visas for 30 more French women and children.

The optimistic note, bolstered by news that 12 more women and children had arrived in West Germany, was sounded by William Waldegrave, a foreign office minister, who met the 199 hostages who arrived at Heathrow aboard an Iraqi jet at 4.55am.

At Heathrow terminal 4, Mr Waldegrave said there was a "very real" prospect of getting more women and children out in the fairly near future. Many already had exit visas. The government was liaising with several British airlines for the aircraft which would be needed to bring out all remaining Britons.

The next priority, he said, was to get the 1,000 or more British women and children in Kuwait moved to Baghdad. He also gave a warning that further rescue flights might be delayed because of Iraqi rape and the "incredibly complicated" process of negotiation.

Mr Waldegrave emphasised that the government would not be bargaining with Iraq or saying thank you for the release of the 199 hostages. "It is not a matter of gratitude. It is a matter of law being obeyed. This is not a bargaining situation. It is a matter of the Geneva Convention being obeyed."

Meanwhile at Heathrow, the euphoria among released women

and children was tempered by the knowledge that many had left behind a lot of uncertainty. There was a reluctance among them to say anything which could jeopardise their predicament. "They are anxious about their men and not keen to talk very much about their situation," Mr Waldegrave said. "They don't want to say anything or do anything to put them at risk."

After days of stop-start negotiations over the release of the hostages, the Iraqi jet took off from Baghdad at 10pm GMT on Saturday. It had been delayed six hours to await the arrival of Reverend Jesse Jackson, the US civil rights leader, with 15 sick Americans from Kuwait. Also on board were 22 French women and children who disembarked in Paris, four Australians, two New Zealanders and four or five Canadians.

The aircraft touched down at 4.55am, one of three delayed flights that left Baghdad on Saturday with freed hostages aboard.



Free: a woman arrives from Baghdad with her cat

another was bound for Amman, in Jordan, with mainly Japanese women and children, the other was a Lufthansa flight to West Germany.

At Heathrow they were met by a fleet of cars and taxis which collected them in a protected corner of the airport guarded by police. Some stood in disbelief in the compound area as relatives loaded their few bags into cars. Others smiled and hugged one another before clambering inside. Many hostages carried nothing.

Those who spoke said they had been well treated and that Iraqi soldiers had behaved well towards them. Jan Edwards, who arrived in Frankfurt, said the first two weeks of detention were bearable because they were allowed to move about freely, but she described the last two weeks as horrendous. She said she believed the Iraqis had "got themselves into something which I am sure they did not intend to" and that "they do not really know how to get out of it".

Among those returning to London was Helen Abnett, aged 33, who was trapped in Kuwait on the way to her honeymoon. She arrived back without her husband Petr, aged 35.

Plans by Virgin Atlantic to send in a jet were once more thrown into confusion last night when Iraq told the airline that permission to land in Baghdad had been temporarily suspended. Virgin, which has had a plane on standby for more than two weeks, had hoped to take off today to collect more Western hostages, including about 40 to 50 Britons and a similar amount of French nationals as well as others from America, Australia, Ireland, Norway and Sweden.

Last night Richard Branson said his company was working hard to overcome the problems.

## WASHINGTON

## Bush seeks unity in Helsinki talks

From CHARLES BRENNER in WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush hopes that the one resounding message to President Saddam Hussein and the Arab world when he meets President Gorbachev in Helsinki next Sunday will be that the two superpowers stand together in their refusal to countenance Iraq's continued occupation of Kuwait.

As the Gulf confrontation passes into what the Americans see as a protracted phase of psychological manoeuvring, the US administration believes the one-day summit will enable the two leaders to counter the efforts of Iraq to depict itself as an Arab underdog locked in a feud with an imperialist superpower.

Maintaining the isolation of President Saddam and holding together the world coalition has emerged over the past two weeks as the key element of US political strategy. As Senator Sam Nunn, the powerful Democratic head of the armed services committee, put it yesterday, the world could now

see that "we are no longer the Lone Ranger, we've gotten a posse together."

Mr Nunn's remarks echoed the current view in the administration that the United States should await the outcome of diplomacy for several weeks before considering military action against Iraq. The Americans are not optimistic that the Helsinki summit, hastily convened at Mr Bush's request, will lead to any peace plan. But it will provide a chance for Mr Bush to hear Mr Gorbachev's views on the kind of international regime that might guarantee frontiers and neutralise Iraq's chemical and eventually nuclear arsenals.

The White House expects Mr Gorbachev to emphasise the urgency of a political solution to the crisis, as he has done from the outset. Beyond the immediate signal of the summit, the White House believes that the two presidents can use the heat of the crisis to chart a course for co-

operation in defining what Mr Bush has repeatedly called the "shape of the post-Cold War world".

The president is likely to sketch out for Mr Gorbachev the benefits which the Kremlin may derive from its act of "good citizenship" in the world community. Washington may show greater flexibility on an array of Soviet needs, from economic concessions to initiatives on the reduction of conventional forces and nuclear arms negotiations.

The administration is aware of the alarm among the Soviet military and sections of the leadership over the implications of the sudden arrival of a huge US military force only a few hundred miles from the Soviet border. In their talks and their expected joint statement, the Americans would avoid pushing Mr Gorbachev further than he could be expected to go, officials said.

Mr Bush said he did not plan to

seek Soviet help in sharing the burden of the international action. Such an action would clearly be pointless given Moscow's current economic plight and politically counter-productive.

The Americans hope that Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev will hold a joint press conference at the end of the Helsinki meeting. The sight of the two superpower leaders standing together in condemnation of Iraq will send a graphic image to the world's television screens.

● MOSCOW: Although the Helsinki summit was an all-American idea, President Gorbachev will have welcomed the opportunity to meet President Bush for direct talks on the Gulf and much else (Mary Dejevsky writes).

On the Gulf, the Soviet leader will want to ascertain Washington's long term intentions in the region. Mr Gorbachev and his foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, will want an assurance that their relaxed view of the US build-up in Saudi Arabia is justified. More hawkish noises have come from other people, however, including Mr Shevardnadze's deputy, Alexander Belonogov, some military spokesmen and commentators for the military and communist party newspapers. They maintain that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was a convenient excuse for the US to establish a permanent presence in the Gulf and will transform the regional balance of power to Moscow's detriment.

A day in Helsinki can only be good for the Soviet leader's somewhat jaded domestic image. It will help to preserve the outdated view of the Soviet Union as a superpower and so perhaps marginally improve Soviet domestic morale. The face-to-face talks will give Mr Gorbachev a chance to brief Mr Bush on the rapidly deteriorating economic and political situation in his country.

## Meetings with PLO suspended

From ANDREW MCEWEN in MUSCAT

BRITAIN has suspended ministerial meetings with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in protest against the support given by Yasser Arafat, its chairman, to President Saddam Hussein.

The decision is certain to please Jerusalem which resented steps Britain has taken to improve links with the PLO.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who is expected to visit Israel and Egypt next month, described Mr Arafat's views as "a serious mistake".

He made it clear he was unlikely to authorise further meetings unless the organisation dropped its support for Baghdad. "Further dealings with the PLO will depend

on the PLO's decisions" he said. He government will not want its coolness towards the PLO to be seen as a warning towards Israel. Mr Hurd, who is visiting six Middle Eastern nations, plans to tell leaders that Britain will not allow the Arab-Israeli conflict to be forgotten.

Jerusalem is likely to view Britain's shift as further justification for its refusal to talk to the PLO. Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, proposed a plan last year under which Palestinian representatives but not with the PLO.

Israeli sources said then informal links between the representatives and the PLO could be tolerated, but that was before Mr Shamir's Likud party and allies gained a working majority in the

Knesset, the Israeli parliament. Mr Hurd said the PLO's support for Baghdad had weakened its case for inclusion in any talks with Israel. Britain has never openly urged Jerusalem to talk to the PLO, but has done so in private.

It could be thought that Britain's view was irrelevant because the United States had already suspended dialogue with the PLO before the invasion of Kuwait. But Jerusalem feels London's opinion carries weight in Washington.

While Mr Hurd wants Gulf leaders to feel Britain will again be active in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, he has not suggested how. He said the invasion of Kuwait had "kicked it (the Palestinian cause) in the teeth". The decision to suspend ministerial meetings is an important change.



## THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: THE MIDDLE EAST

## Peace hopes fade as UN leader meets a brick wall

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN AMMAN

ONE of the last hopes of a peaceful solution to the Gulf conflict vanished yesterday when Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, conceded that his attempt to find common ground with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, had failed.

His voice hoarse after two days of talks and using unusually blunt language, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said he was disappointed that he had made no real progress.

One diplomat said: "This is the language of a man who has come up against a brick wall. Short of a miracle, this must make war more likely."

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar appeared to see only two glimmers of light: the superpower summit on the Gulf next weekend, and a promise from Mr Aziz that Iraq would take no step which could escalate the military situation.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said he hoped President Bush and President Gorbachev could keep the temperature down and soothe the situation in the way his own diplomatic intervention had done. But, he said, "As I leave Amman, I must acknowledge a certain disappointment because I had hoped for more. I should have liked to inform the security council that real progress had been made during the discussions here. But in all honesty I cannot do so at present, nor can I anticipate the council's reaction." He said he had impressed on Mr Aziz "the gravity of the confrontation."

A degree of optimism about the outcome of the talks had initially prevailed because they had lasted two days. Mr Aziz raised hopes by replying "no comment" when asked during a recess whether Iraq had modified its refusal to leave Kuwait.

On Saturday senior UN and Iraqi officials met to try to iron out differences which had arisen during five hours of talks on Friday. Diplomats said the main issue was Mr Aziz's demand for "guarantees of non-aggression" by America if Iraq did withdraw from Kuwait, and freed male Western hostages.

Whatever the obstacles, and

only historians with access to UN papers will be able to say precisely what went wrong. Mr Aziz emerged in the end taking the same defiant and uncompromising position with which he had arrived.

Given a long explanation of the five United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and imposing sanctions, Mr Aziz accused the council of taking "hasty decisions" and of "making mistakes out of selfish interests and misinformation."

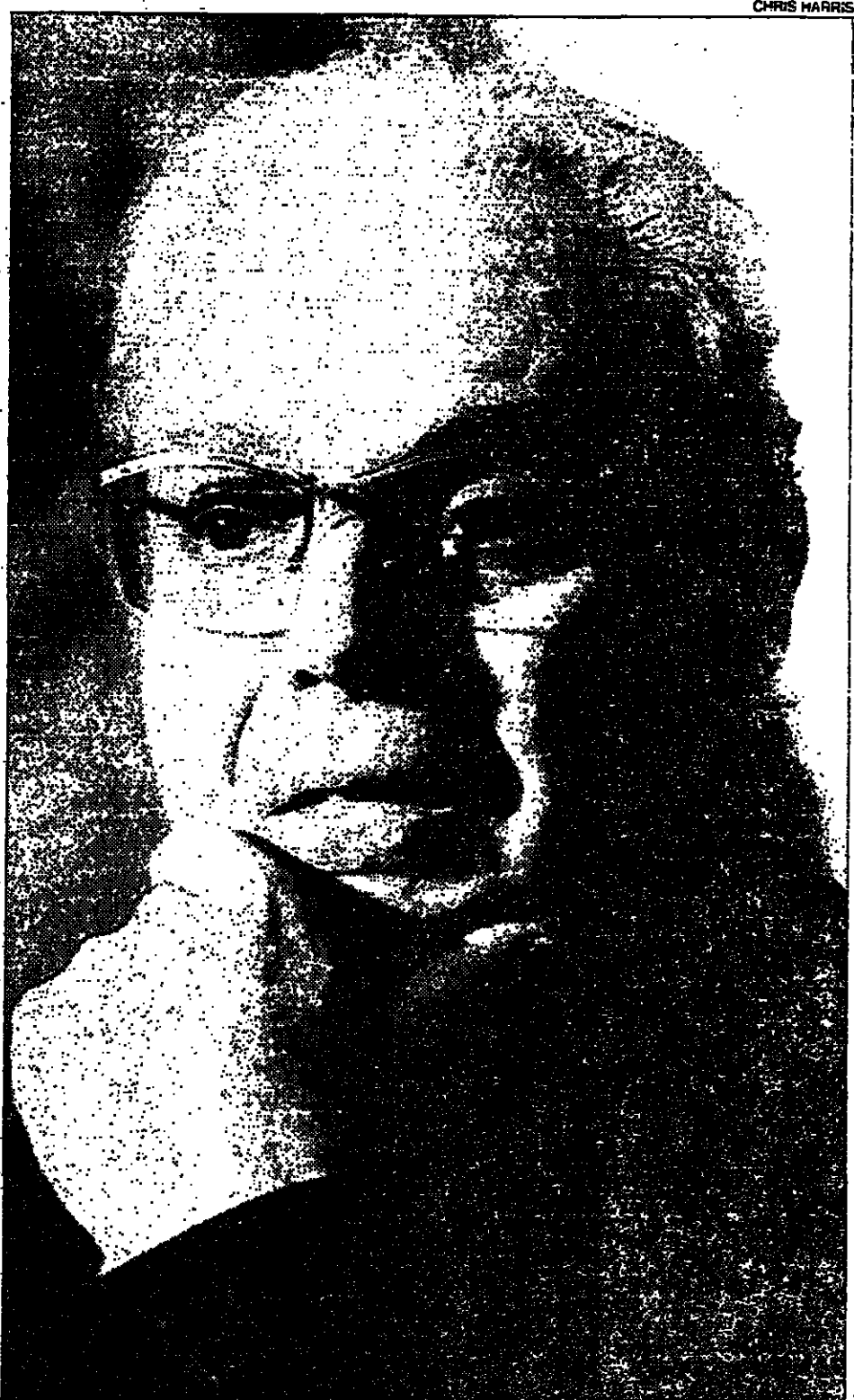
He said some permanent members of the security council were not neutral. They had never been "good friends of this region", and had supported aggression. He accused America of undermining UN efforts to send a fact-finding mission to the Israeli-occupied territories, and repeated Iraq's demand that a solution of the Kuwait crisis must be accompanied by the full implementation of long-standing UN resolutions calling for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, however, indicated that he had finally lost patience with the demand that the invasion of Kuwait should be linked to the question of Palestine. "One sin does not justify another sin," he said testily.

He said the world must continue to work with "determination and urgency" to solve the crisis "concerning the gravity and dangers of which there should be no illusion." Mr Aziz had not discussed a withdrawal from Kuwait "in the manner I expected", and had given "no clear-cut commitment" to pull out Iraqi forces.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said he would not after all go on to Baghdad to meet President Saddam Hussein, a further sign of his mission's failure. He said he had listened carefully to Mr Aziz's account of Iraq's political and humanitarian concerns, and would convey them to the security council. He welcomed Iraq's decision to release women and children hostages but insisted this must be followed by the release of all foreign nationals.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said he had met Mr Aziz because of



Mission impossible: Javier Pérez de Cuéllar admitting the failure of his peace initiative

"my deep concern about escalating tensions and the need to avert a further deterioration". He said he continued to remain at Mr Aziz's disposal.

The secretary-general said the proposal put forward by Colonel Qaddafi of Libya for the deployment of UN forces in Kuwait after an Iraqi withdrawal was "an interesting idea", and should be pursued.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said President Saddam's statement on August 19 that the future of Kuwait should be left to the Arabs still gave him some hope that Iraq might be "prepared to reconsider its position as far as its presence in Kuwait is concerned". But

he had not been given the "opening from the Iraqi side" he had expected. The situation remained "explosive".

Mr Aziz had retorted that if the situation was explosive, this was because of the Western military build-up, not to Iraq's actions.

The situation was "dramatic and complicated" and needed "quiet diplomacy and patience". There had to be an "Arab solution", he added, repeating Iraq's long-standing line.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar replied that although an important Arab role was required, the UN had to play its part because of "the global interests involved, the large build-up of forces in the area,

and the presence in Iraq and Kuwait of many third country nationals".

Mr Aziz returned abruptly to Baghdad on Saturday night, refusing to answer additional questions from reporters who had been waiting on the steps of the Jordanian Royal Palace, where the talks took place.

This left Señor Pérez de Cuéllar to give his press conference alone yesterday, another sign of the rift between the two men.

PARIS: Señor Pérez de Cuéllar arrived here yesterday and was meeting Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister. Today he will take part in opening a conference of least-developed countries. (AP)

## Gadaffi opens ports to allow food for Iraqis

FROM JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN DUBAI

LIBYA, openly challenging trade sanctions against Iraq, said its ports were at Baghdad's disposal to import food. The decision, announced by Colonel Muammar Qaddafi on Saturday night and published by Libya's official media yesterday, makes Libya the first country, technically at least, to refuse to abide by United Nations sanctions.

"It is not possible for us to participate in an action designed to starve people and children in Iraq," said Colonel Qaddafi in a speech marking the anniversary of the 1969 revolution. "The blockade against Iraq is enforced by the United States which is acting in the name of the United Nations without being authorised, which is an error."

Colonel Qaddafi said Libya had authorised Iraqi ships to dock in its ports to stock up on food free of charge. But he made it clear his country did not import Iraqi oil nor act as an intermediary of Baghdad. The decision is likely to put all shipping from Libya under scrutiny from American, British and French warships enforcing the blockade against Iraq. Air traffic from Libya is also likely to be closely monitored.

Arab diplomats and Western analysts said they believed that Libya's decision was essentially a gesture. They said Colonel Qaddafi seemed primarily concerned with

distancing himself from sanctions, which to the eyes of many Arabs are the result of American pressure in the United Nations.

In Baghdad, Iraqi authorities have begun to issue ration cards for basic commodities, correspondents reported yesterday. On the rationing list are rice, flour, cooking oil, tea, sugar, soap, detergent, milk for infants, potatoes and beans.

Iraq in its current budget has allocated about \$530 million to subsidise basic goods. But the price of meat will not be supported by the government. A pound of meat is now selling for about \$7.

Iraq has, meanwhile, launched an ambitious self-sufficiency project aimed at cultivating every inch of arable land in an attempt to defeat the international embargo. Because of the country's ample water resources, land and infrastructure, Iraqi authorities say they could double agricultural output over the coming winter and even become an exporter of food.

United Nations trade sanctions were imposed on August 6 to protest at Iraq's invasion of Kuwait four days earlier. Interpretations of security council resolution 661 on whether or not food is covered by the restrictions have varied, with some countries asserting that Iraqi food im-

ports should be banned while others insist they should be exempted. The resolution prohibits the sale or supply to Iraq of all commodities or products... but not including supplies intended strictly for medical purposes and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs.

NEW YORK: Cuba is threatening to submit a resolution to the UN Security Council this week allowing food shipments to Iraq unless the council's sanctions committee makes clear that food and medicine are exempt from the embargo against Iraq (James Bone writes).

After a closed-door meeting of the sanctions committee on Friday, Ricardo Alarcón, Cuba's representative, said: "We announced that if by next week a clear decision on this matter is not taken, we will formally table our resolution in the council and will demand an urgent vote on it. We may not have it approved, but at least everybody's responsibility will be clear in front of the world."

Britain and the United States argue that food can be sent only in "humanitarian circumstances" and that Iraq still has adequate food stocks. The chairman of the committee, Marti Rasi of Finland, said: "We don't think that there is any humanitarian need for foodstuff importation at the moment."

DHAHRAN

## Bandwagon catches up with American troops

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON IN DHAHRAN

LIKE most commanders of US forces in Saudi Arabia, Colonel Buster Diggs, in charge of a battalion of M60 tanks, thought his marines were holding up well in the remote new environment that has become their home.

"I think we have licked the heat problem, our main obstacle now has got to be the sand," he said.

But just when the American GI thought he was coming to grips with the forbidding Arabian desert, he has discovered that the bandwagon that follows every army into war has caught up with him.

Nobody loves a campaign more than politicians, big business and the media so it should have come as no surprise to find all three converging this weekend on the dusty defences of the marines and airborne troops.

The first in were 14 senators who wasted no time in rewriting US policy in the Gulf, brushing aside the official defensive posture of the American deployment and replacing it with something more palatable for the voters back home.

Senator Alan Cranston, a Democrat from California, was one of the first to beat the war drums when he was interviewed huddled next to a tank under camouflage with soldiers from his home state. "I saw Hitler on the march and Mussolini," said the politician, aged 76. "I don't want to see another Hitler get away with it."

Not to be outdone by his colleague's belligerence, Senator David Durenberger of Maine told men from his home state that the "stand-off" with Iraq would not go on indefinitely. "The longer he (Saddam) sits up there (in Kuwait) the tougher his decisions get. In another month or so we will kick his ass if necessary," he said.

The comments coincided with a press conference by Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi defence minister, who emphasised that multinational forces were in the kingdom only to defend it and not to be used in offensive actions.

No sooner had the senators left than the Coca-Cola man arrived on the frontline with 200,000 complimentary cases delivered in a refrigerated lorry and pursued across the desert by a posse of photographers and cameramen.

"Since World War II Coca-Cola has made a commitment to have its products available to American servicemen wherever in the world they may be," said Jim Harting, the company's Gulf manager. "Our interest today is to fill the pipeline with cold Coca-Cola to the multinational forces and to assist the US military to get this product cold to the troops."

If the forces feel they are being exploited they will at least reap some returns from the publicity other than a cold can of soft drink. Coca-Cola is one of four US multinationals which have donated half a million dollars each to the United Services Organisation, responsible for entertaining troops.

The USO promises to bring "celebrity entertainment" to

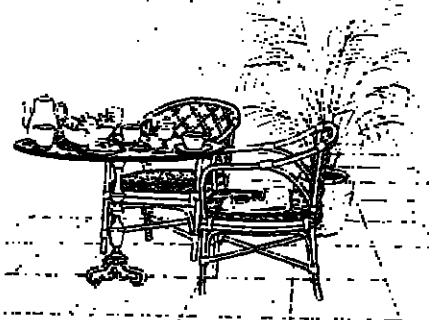
Saudi Arabia for Thanksgiving Day and at Christmas. The organisation is being swamped with offers from actors, musicians and comedians who have volunteered to perform for free.

Gulf hovercraft: The Saudi frontier guard, responsible for protecting the country's land and sea borders, said yesterday that it planned to order four British-made hovercraft

to reinforce its coastal fleet. General Mohammed Al-Katami said that the existing fleet of five British-made vessels would soon be joined by more up-to-date craft.

Since the invasion of Kuwait the frontier guards have been deployed for forward reconnaissance along the Kuwait border and used to protect key coastal installations such as oil depots.

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Road to nowhere: some of the endless stream of refugees waiting to enter Jordan, where UN officials estimate 100,000 are already stranded

## High society turns a blind eye to refugees

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN AMMAN

ONE of Amman's leading hotels this weekend gave another in an apparently endless series of high-society weddings. The full Arab orchestra played by the hotel pool while guests admired the main wedding present, a new Porsche covered in flowers.

"I am not sure how long this

can go on," one guest complained as the champagne flowed. "Jordan has never been rich, but the sanctions against Iraq and the refugee problem are ruining us."

The border post at Ruweishid, on the Iraq-Jordan frontier, presented the other picture. An estimated 20,000 refugees a day arrive from Iraq and occupied Kuwait. They lie in the sand, with little protection

against the burning sun or the cold desert night. The lucky ones are packed 40 at a time into makeshift tents. The refugees' eyes are inflamed by dust and sand as they queue for water. A dead camel rots by the roadside.

Refugees, most from the Asian subcontinent, complain of being treated like rubbish. There have been fights between Indians, Bangladeshis,

Filipinos and others. Yesterday, UN and Red Cross officials fanned out through the mass of starving and thirsty refugees to assess the scale of the tragedy. Distraught mothers pleaded with officials for food and milk, and aid workers said that it was a matter only of time before children began to die. Ruweishid is a four-hour drive from Amman across a

blisteringly hot desert road. It is the stench you notice first, the stomach-turning smell of rotting food and human excrement. Then there are the flies, so familiar by now to the refugees that they barely bother to brush them away.

Red Cross officials have tried to organise buses to take the refugees to transit camps. But the refugees either refuse to get on board or jump off the buses, suspicious of officialdom. "At least we have some shade here," one Bangladeshi said.

Some aid workers are asking what is happening to the £10.6 million Jordan is said so far to have received from relief agencies.

Officials said that in addition to the untold thousands at Ruweishid there were 20,000, mostly Asian, at the international exhibition ground outside Amman, 5,000 in Amman itself and 2,000 at the port of Aqaba. They said Jordan might have to close its border with Iraq in desperation, as it briefly did two weeks ago.

Officials from the UN Disaster Relief Organisation put the number of stranded refugees at almost 100,000, is urging governments to organise emergency flights home for their stranded nationals, and Royal Jordanian Airlines has offered to fly some of the stranded Asians home to ease the crisis.

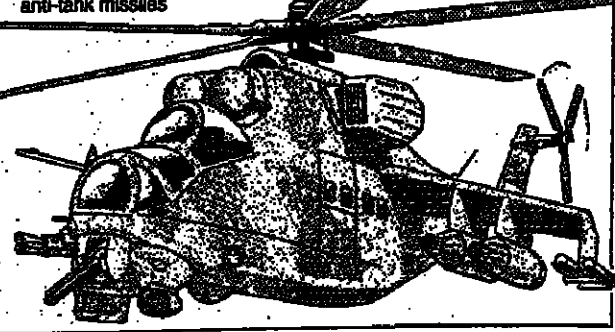
a troop carrier with guns for self-defence, as a ground attack assault weapon with bombs and rockets, and as an anti-tank system. The Hind-D carries four AT6 Spiral anti-tank missiles on the stub wings, as well as four pods, each with 32 57mm rocket projectiles. A four-barrel 12.7mm cannon is fitted under the nose.

The maximum speed of the Hind is 199mph. The maximum cruising speed with a full weapon load is 183mph. The West estimates the Hind's combat radius at 99 miles.

The Soviet Union is now building the Mi28 Havoc helicopter to counter the Apache, but it is not in service. It was first seen in the West at last year's Paris air show.

## IRAQI MI-24 COMBAT HELICOPTER

The Soviet-made Hind can carry eight fully-armed soldiers and is armed with bombs, rockets and anti-tank missiles



which have a range of between 500 and 3,000 yards.

If the Iraqis have the Hind-D version, introduced in 1977, it will be armed with the AT6

Spiral semi-active, laser-guided anti-tank missile, with a maximum range of about 26,000ft.

The Hind has three roles: as

## HIGH-TECH WEAPONS

## Apache helicopter is match for Hind

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IRAQ has at least forty of the Soviet Union's multi-role Mi24 Hind combat helicopters. When these heavily armed craft were first spotted in 1973, there was nothing to match them in the West. The American Apache combat helicopter, now deployed in Saudi Arabia, was designed to counter the Hind.

The Apache is an altogether more sophisticated aircraft, but the Hind nevertheless remains a formidable battlefield weapon. It is capable of carrying up to eight fully equipped troops in the main cabin and is armed with AT2 Swatter anti-tank missiles



# 'Post-box' addresses deliver easy pickings for conmen

Lack of regulation means accommodation addresses are being used for crime, Stewart Tandler reports

Trading standards experts are to press for the strengthening of the law on accommodation addresses which are open to abuse by pornographers, drug smugglers, terrorists and fraudsters.

Confidence tricksters are making fortunes through the illegal use of "post-box" addresses, amid evidence of muddle and ignorance among government departments, local authority officials, police and businessmen.

An obscure section of the 1920 Official Secrets Act is the only legal check against this highly effective fraudster's tool, but many accommodation addresses fail to meet the requirement of the act to register with the police.

Some of Britain's largest forces do not make checks.

The scale of the problem was illustrated recently when the Bank of England disclosed an international fraud involving the issue of false banking drafts. There was anxiety that the credibility of the British banking system could be damaged.

Fraudsters in Nigeria have been ordering goods from around the world using accommodation addresses in Britain for non-existent financial institutions.

Names such as Caribbean Finance and Metropolitan Merchant Trust, overseas companies with accommodation addresses in Britain, have been used, and a Bank of England official said: "Anyone approached to provide a post box should think carefully before agreeing."

A method used by overseas fraudsters is to order goods from various countries and to invite

suppliers to contact a bank or finance company in Britain to verify creditworthiness. The "banks" do not exist and the addresses supplied are accommodation addresses. Suppliers write to the addresses offered and their letters are passed back by the accommodation addresses to the original fraudsters who then return glowing references.

Greater Manchester's commercial fraud squad does more than most to combat post-box crime and has intercepted orders for goods worth millions of pounds from Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, the United States, Mexico, Italy, Greece, West Germany, Denmark, France, Spain and Canada. The goods range from false teeth and optical lenses to car spares, loudspeakers and chain saws.

On July 4, 1989, shortly after the first letters were intercepted, a

two-page telex went from Manchester police via Interpol to the Nigerian authorities giving details of the destinations of fraudulently obtained goods, supplied from all over the world, the dates when they had arrived or were expected to arrive in Nigeria and the names and addresses of alleged contacts in that country. There has still been no response from the Nigerian authorities.

Three years ago Greater Manchester police discovered another international fraud operating from the North-West using a network of accommodation addresses. The fraudster was offering well-paid jobs on a construction project in the Far East in return for a contribution towards the air fare.

In London a secretarial agency found itself being used as the axis of a drug smuggling ring when a pound of pure opium fell out of a badly sealed packet from India.

Despite such abuses the only control on agencies lies in an act passed 70 years ago after the first world war to prevent spymasters using accommodation addresses to reach their agents. Section five of the 1920 Official Secrets Act requires all companies or individuals offering accommodation addresses to notify police.

A register of the companies must be kept by police forces which have wide powers to inspect records. The act carries penalties of one month in prison or a fine of £50.

No record is available of the last prosecution under the act but this is hardly surprising. Last week spokesmen for both the trade department and the Post Office were unaware of any legislation covering accommodation addresses.

A number of police officers and trading standards officers admitted they had never heard of the

act's powers. Of 12 secretarial services agencies contacted by *The Times* in central and south-west London which advertise mail address services, five said they were not registered with the police. Several said they had asked the police or a local council if registration was required and were told it was not.

A check on 20 agencies which did not advertise mail address services uncovered eight offering the service of which four were not registered.

Police forces which keep registers include West Midlands, Lancashire, Avon and Somerset which lists 98 companies; the City of London with one company, and the Metropolitan Police. Scotland Yard's obscene publications unit has a list of 86 companies. Forces which do not keep registers include West Yorkshire, Strathclyde, Hampshire and Thames Valley. Few forces

carry out regular checks. A Lancashire officer admitted its list was almost dormant.

Greater Manchester police, though, have made efforts to trace firms offering the service and have produced a standard form for about 50 companies which have registered so that they can record clients. Police carry out regular checks and their efforts have led to a number of convictions.

The Home Office confirmed that there were powers under the Official Secrets Act but said there were no plans to call on forces to keep registers.

However, change could still come. John Corfield, chairman of the fair trading committee of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, said the institute was approaching the police for talks on reforming the law.

Leading article, page 11.

## Waite family presses for more action to free hostages

THE brother of Terry Waite yesterday urged the government to send an emissary to Iran to prepare for direct talks on the release of the three British hostages in the Lebanon.

David Waite said that his brother's wife, Frances, and their four children were now "more hopeful than they have ever been" of gaining the freedom of the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who was taken hostage in Beirut in January 1987.

The family's optimism is based on the Foreign Office's new willingness to hold unconditional talks with the Iranian government and on the release of the Irish hostage Brian Keenan. David Waite, aged 43, who has previously shied away from suggesting what the government should do, said: "The atmosphere seems to be getting lighter as every day goes by, but the family feel there

are various ways in which with a little imagination the Foreign Office could move the situation along even more. The diplomatic problems between Britain and Iran are all but over, and now is the time for vigorous action to pursue every possible measure other than paying ransom."

He said that Frances Waite and the children, twins Ruth and Claire, aged 24, Gillian, aged 23, and Mark, aged 18, had "really done remarkably well", considering the length of Terry Waite's captivity and the complete absence of news. "I am very proud of them and Terry will be, too, when he comes out." He added that David Keenan had told him by telephone on Friday that he believed, after careful reflection, that an anguished shout that he had heard last month from a cell close to where he was being held, had been an English voice, and there was "a very strong possibility" that it was Terry's.

Mr Waite thought that the Iranians had finally understood that the Beirut hostages had no value as a bargaining counter and were therefore anxious to resolve the issue because of the need for Western aid in the aftermath of the recent earthquake and the ending of the eight-year war with Iraq.

"They can now, with little effort and without loss of face, come back into the community of nations and be applauded by the rest of the world, just by letting go people that they should not have helped hold captive in the first place."

"This is the British government's opportunity. Our dropping of preconditions for direct talks is a significant shift, but we mustn't leave matters to take their course," Mr Waite said. The need now was to prepare for negotiations with Iran by sending out an emissary.

Brian Keenan, meanwhile, was yesterday enjoying his freedom to the full. He swapped his hospital bed for a VIP seat at one of the highlights of Ireland's sporting year, joining sixty thousand supporters at the All Ireland hurling final in Dublin's Tolka Park.

Mr Keenan was given a seat in the VIP stand with the Irish prime minister Charles Haughey, the president Dr Patrick Hillery and other government ministers. Last minute efforts by officials from the foreign affairs department had secured a ticket for Mr Keenan after he said that he wanted to see the match. A member of the Gaelic Athletic Association staff gave up his seat for Mr Keenan who was accompanied at the game by his friend Frank McCallan, from Belfast.

Mr Keenan, a Belfast teacher, who celebrates his 40th birthday, this week was said to be "in excellent spirits" by a spokesman at the Mater Private hospital in Dublin where he has been having medical tests since his return to Ireland a week ago. Doctors found no serious medical problems apart from minor complaints such as sore eyes, noise in his ears and tooth decay.



A cricket match being played on New Green yesterday in front of St Anne's Church, which is at risk from decay. In spite of royal links spanning two centuries, the church has been refused an English Heritage grant because it was not of "outstanding interest" (Ruth Gledhill writes).

one million tourists who visit the botanical gardens near by each year, needs £250,000 to restore the interior, roof, portico and church surrounds before they are damaged beyond repair. The listed building, associated with the royal family since Queen Anne, was built as a small chapel in 1710 and enlarged in

the 19th century. Architects involved in its development included Sir Jeffrey Wyattville, Henry Stock and Sir Ninian Comper. The mixture of architectural styles, classical at the east end and Victorian byzantine at the west, was one reason why the grant was refused. Canon Peter McCrory,

vicer of St Anne's, said the church had not expected the entire renovation costs to be supplied by English Heritage, but had hoped for a contribution. He said: "If this little Sandringham for the Hanoverians is not of outstanding national interest, I wonder what hope there is for any of our

English churches." Mosaics and parquet flooring are loose through constant wear; the organ requires big repairs; lead work, guttering and flat roofs are near the end of their useful life; underlying timbers are feared to have decayed and the stonework facade needs renovation.

## Gulf factor complicates ministers' budget talks

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CABINET ministers are facing new pressures on their spending plans because of the Gulf confrontation and the impact of increases in petrol prices on inflation.

Norman Lamont, chief secretary to the Treasury, is about to begin a series of meetings with ministerial colleagues at which he will attempt to trim some £15 billion from their budgets for next year. However, there is a growing acceptance among ministers that the planned spending target of £39.2 billion for next year will have to be breached.

"The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has added to caution over making deep cuts in defence spending in the long term. That was emphasised by the prime minister in an interview with David Frost on TV-AM yesterday. Mrs Thatcher said that after the departure of the Iraqis from Kuwait a system would have to be worked out to guarantee the Gulf's security."

"Obviously if it has happened once it could happen again," she said. "We would have to make certain that he [Saddam Hussein] could not go into other nations and do the same."

Even before the Iraqi invasion Treasury ministers were issuing warnings that this year's spending round could be the toughest ever. Ministers had hoped to cut around £1 billion from the defence budget next year as a "peace dividend" from the ending of the cold war. But the cost of the Gulf operation will add to the pressures on the budget of Tom King, the defence secretary, and give cause for delaying longer-term cuts, while higher petrol prices will push up the inflation rate.

## Emphasis on public transport at complex

By RONALD FAUX

WORKERS in South Yorkshire are being encouraged to leave their cars at home when a huge shopping and leisure complex opens tomorrow. They will find £7.5 million improvements to the public transport system, but scanty parking space for private vehicles.

The 7,000 office workers and shop assistants using the £400 million Meadowhall complex on the outskirts of Sheffield will have to compete for 1,000 parking spots. However, they will be able to use the new Meadowhall interchange, which provides train, coach and bus services and puts Sheffield and Rotherham less than 10 minutes away.

Mike Smith, head of external affairs for the South Yorkshire passenger transport executive, said: "The object is to make public transport the preferred option with a comfortable, convenient interchange, 90 bus services an hour and 261 train services a day we hope to achieve that."

Meadowhall will have a large free car parking area for the public, and its cost is justified by the developers because of the spending potential of visitors. Workers' parking, however, represents a £2,000 investment for each parking space without any return.

Since the cheap fares policy of South Yorkshire county council was abandoned four years ago public transport costs have risen 250 per cent and traffic congestion by 25 per cent. Mr Smith said that if cheap fares returned at the old levels it would double the transport executive's budget. Half the cost of the interchange, with its four railway platforms and covered access to the complex, has been met by the European regional development fund.

## Injured firemen's inflated claims cut down by £1m

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

INJURY compensation claims by 17 London firemen were reduced by more than £1 million after private investigators checked the extent of their disabilities.

In one case a fireman who claimed £177,000 on the basis that he could not walk very far after an accident at work accepted £15,000 after investigators spotted him working on his car outside his home. Together the 17 cases accounted for half of the £2.2 million in public sector fraud and attempted fraud reported by the Audit Commission.

The London Fire and Civil Defence Authority said yesterday that none of the cases had been referred to the police and rejected

the commission's description of them as fraudulent. "In these cases we did not consider that the people concerned were trying to defraud the authority. They just seem to have been trying to get as much as they could," a spokesman said.

Eight of the cases were settled out of court, two were withdrawn and the remainder were adjudicated by the High Court.

Cliff Nicholson, the deputy controller of the Audit Commission, defended the use of the term "fraud" to describe claims. "One can argue about where the line should be drawn between fraud and attempting to obtain money to which one is not

entitled. I do not think there was sufficient evidence in this case to launch a criminal prosecution," he said.

The disclosure that London firemen were involved followed an investigation by the *Local Government Chronicle*, disclosing that claims totalling £1.5 million lodged by the 17 firemen for injuries suffered on duty during 1986 to 1989 had been settled for £445,000.

A fire brigade spokesman said: "We carried out investigations into these personal injury claims and as a result they were all substantially reduced."

"If there had been any question of them being criminal acts we would have handed the matter over to the Director of Public Prosecutions or taken disciplinary action against the people involved. No such action was taken."

All the claims had been lodged by a leading firm of London solicitors instructed by the Fire Brigades Union. In each of the 17 cases, which were unrelated, private enquiry agents were hired to look into the true extent of the disability suffered by claimants.

Private investigators are often used and many cases collapse before they reach court because the disabilities are found to have been overstated.

The fire brigade spokesman said it was usual for solicitors to lodge the maximum claim possible which was then often reduced by negotiation.

He added: "The commission have put two and two together and made seven. They do not seem to have looked into the facts of these cases. The point is that none of the £1 million to which the commission refers was actually paid out so there has been no loss and no fraud."

## Scots warrant sales back tax collection

By KERRY GILL

HIGHLAND region is expected to become the first council in Scotland to use warrant sales to enforce collection of the community charge. Sales of household goods belonging to a 11 debtors are expected in the next few weeks.

The region, under independent control, maintains that it has no choice but to proceed with the sales. Graham Low, the authority's deputy director of finance, said yesterday: "This step has been taken very reluctantly. No one wants warrant sales, but we have a lot of money outstanding and there is a legal requirement to collect it."

"In each of these cases, we have been unable to recover money by other methods, such as the arrestment of wages or bank accounts."

The region is still owed £3.9 million, representing 12.4 per cent of the total income expected from the poll tax.

As many as 8,000 overdue accounts are being handled by sheriff officers who have carried out 700 poundings, the process in which debtors' goods liable for sale are assessed. Those people expected to be subjected to a warrant sale have been notified by the sheriff officers. They can have goods sold off in their homes or disposed of in a saleroom.

In Strathclyde, Scotland's biggest region, warrant sales are likely to start within weeks. The Labour-controlled authority has a projected shortfall of £62 million, with more than 525,000 people in arrears.

## Conqueror is ambushed by Greenpeace

Defence ministry police arrested Greenpeace demonstrators who intercepted the nuclear submarine Conqueror in three boats as it was towed into Plymouth on Saturday to be decommissioned. The boats criss-crossed the bows of the submarine, which sank the Argentine cruiser *Belgrano* in 1982.

Police and sailors in fast launches chased the Greenpeace boats, which were carrying a total of 16 demonstrators. Two boats were surrounded and escorted into Devonport but all those held were released without charge. Campaigners have voiced fears of a health risk if nuclear vessels are scrapped at Plymouth.

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## Labour choice

Eddie O'Hara, aged 52, a principal lecturer in education at Liverpool polytechnic, has been selected to defend the Labour stronghold of Knowsley South at the by-election caused by the death of Sean Hughes. Mr Hughes, a Labour spokesman on defence who had a majority of 20,846 over his Conservative rival, died of cancer in June. He had held the seat since 1983. No date has been set for the by-election.

## Appeal powers

A retired judge said yesterday that the Court of Appeal should be given greater powers to review evidence submitted at original trials. Sir Frederick Lawton, QC, one of the appeal judges who turned down the Birmingham Six's application for an appeal hearing in 1976, said on BBC Radio Ulster that in the Birmingham cases the prosecution relied on alleged oral confessions, and that there was an issue over whether they were made voluntarily.

## Reactor shut down

The oldest nuclear reactor in Western Europe is to be shut down today after 43 years' service at the Harwell laboratory in Oxfordshire. GLEEP, the graphite low energy experimental pile, the forerunner of Britain's nuclear power reactors, has been used as a standard neutron source for testing reactor materials and calibrating radiation monitors, but alternative facilities now exist. Removing the 30 tons of fuel from the core should take two years.

## Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, bond number XP 423189, winner lives in Brighton; £50,000, bond number 11BT 220337, Solihull; £25,000, bond number 8MB 572783, Dyfed.

Buying The Times newspaper from a kiosk costs 50p. From a newsagent 60p. From a newspaper dealer 65p. From a newspaper wholesaler 70p. From a newspaper publisher 75p. From a newspaper distributor 80p. From a newspaper retailer 85p. From a newspaper wholesaler 90p. From a newspaper publisher 95p. From a newspaper distributor 100p. From a newspaper retailer 105p.

## Car computer helps drivers out of a jam

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE journey was an everyday story of Britain's motorway network, with thousands of fuming and frustrated drivers joining crawling lines of cars and lorries filling the M1.

The cost of traffic jams in wasted fuel and time is an estimated £15 billion a year, according to the Confederation of British Industry, but there is no estimate of the cost of the fraying nerves of drivers. In a trial of Britain's first commercially available in-car traffic information system I avoided that stress by the push of a button.

Simply by tapping into a mini-computer on the dashboard, I was warned of potential troublespots on the M1 and M25 by Trafficmaster, which is to be launched today by Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary.

Trafficmaster is a network of "magic eyes" that watch the speed of motorway traffic, sending messages every three minutes to a control room in Luton. It monitors traffic and as soon as the speed of traffic in the outside lane falls below 25mph, warning signals are sent to the dashboard mini-computer. A simplified map of the section of motorway that the driver wants to see then shows exactly where the hold-up is, how long the jam is and at what speed traffic is moving.

With ample warning provided by Trafficmaster, I was able to make a quick exit from the M1 to rejoin it later and avoid the chaos caused by an accident near the busy junction 8, thus avoiding stress and a hold-up.

David Martell, managing director of General Logistics, of Luton, Bedfordshire, the company

behind Trafficmaster, says: "The primary reason for drivers is that they do not know just how long a motorway delay is going to be. It could be a few minutes or an hour. Radio reports are often well out of date by the time they are broadcast."

Trafficmaster is confined to a 35-mile radius of London at present, with 232 infra-red detectors placed on bridges at approximately two-mile intervals on the M25 and along the M1 to junction 10 and along the M40 to junction 4. However, today's official launch signals the start of expansion to cover the national motorway network by 1993. Mr Martell hopes to extend the system to motorway-standard dual carriageways later.

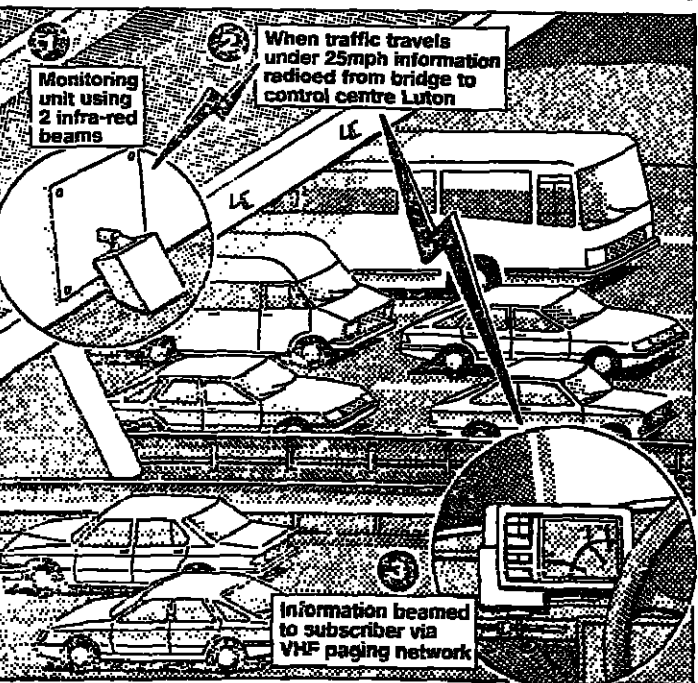
The price of the on-board computer is £295, plus an £18.50

monthly charge for air time. The pricing system is not for drivers is that they do not know just how long a motorway delay is going to be. It could be a few minutes or an hour. Radio reports are often well out of date by the time they are broadcast."

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## Can one company keep watch on the weather and on your unborn child?

Toshiba know how important the health of your unborn child is to you.

Which is why we've developed our Ultra Sound Diagnostic Scanner to offer peace of mind to prospective parents.

And because your own health is just as important, the Ultra Sound Scanner also

diagnoses heart and other internal health problems. But at Toshiba we don't just monitor what's going on inside you; we also keep a watch on what's going on around you.

The Toshiba radar rainfall monitoring system is designed to alert local governments to unexpectedly heavy rainfall, so it gives plenty

of advance warning for extra drainage and emergency pumps.

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In Touch with Tomorrow

# TOSHIBA



# Increase in new graduates leaving for jobs abroad

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STEADY increases in the number of university graduates leaving Britain soon after receiving a degree are disclosed in statistics published today. The proportion of former students taking jobs abroad within six months of graduation rose last year for the fourth year in succession.

More than 2,500 of last year's 60,000 British graduates left the country, an increase from just over 2,000 four years earlier. Including overseas students returning home, the total from all university courses going abroad was almost 12,000.

Although still relatively low at 4.2 per cent, the rising proportion of first-degree graduates taking jobs abroad adds a new element to continuing disputes over the existence of a "brain drain". Debate has centred on postgraduates, who have always been more likely to emigrate. Almost 7 per cent did so last year, fewer than in 1988.

The combination of growing international mobility and a rise in the number of graduates taking a break before seeking a job meant that fewer joined the home employment market in a year when more graduated. One in 20 first-degree graduates was still unavailable for work at the end of 1989.

Jobs in business accounted for one in three of those starting work last year, despite cuts in recruitment by big employers in banking and accountancy. Industry was the next most popular choice. Teaching again attracted fewer starters.

The report, by the Universities' Statistical Record, shows unemployment dropping for the fifth successive year. History, English, physics and mathematics produced the largest numbers of male graduates still out of work after six months. English, history, French and biology were the blackspots for women.

Librarianship and information science were the only subjects with a jobless rate above 10 per cent. Medicine and dentistry had the lowest rates, at under 1 per cent, and architecture, education, technology and engineering all had 3 per cent or fewer out of work.

Overall unemployment rates

have almost halved, from almost 10 per cent in 1984 to just over 5 per cent last year. Despite forecasts of tougher times ahead, this year's graduate employment market is only slightly tighter than last year's. The most successful universities in terms of immediate employment continue to be those with high proportions of science, technology, medicine and business subjects. The University of Surrey, with its concentration of students in these fields, registered the lowest unemployment rates for 1989, followed by City, Dundee, Brunel and Bath universities, all with fewer than 2 per cent out of work by the end of the year.

Sussex and St David's, Lampeter, where the arts and humanities predominate, were at the bottom of the table, with unemployment of more than 8 per cent. Both argue that their graduates fare no worse than others when individual subjects are compared.

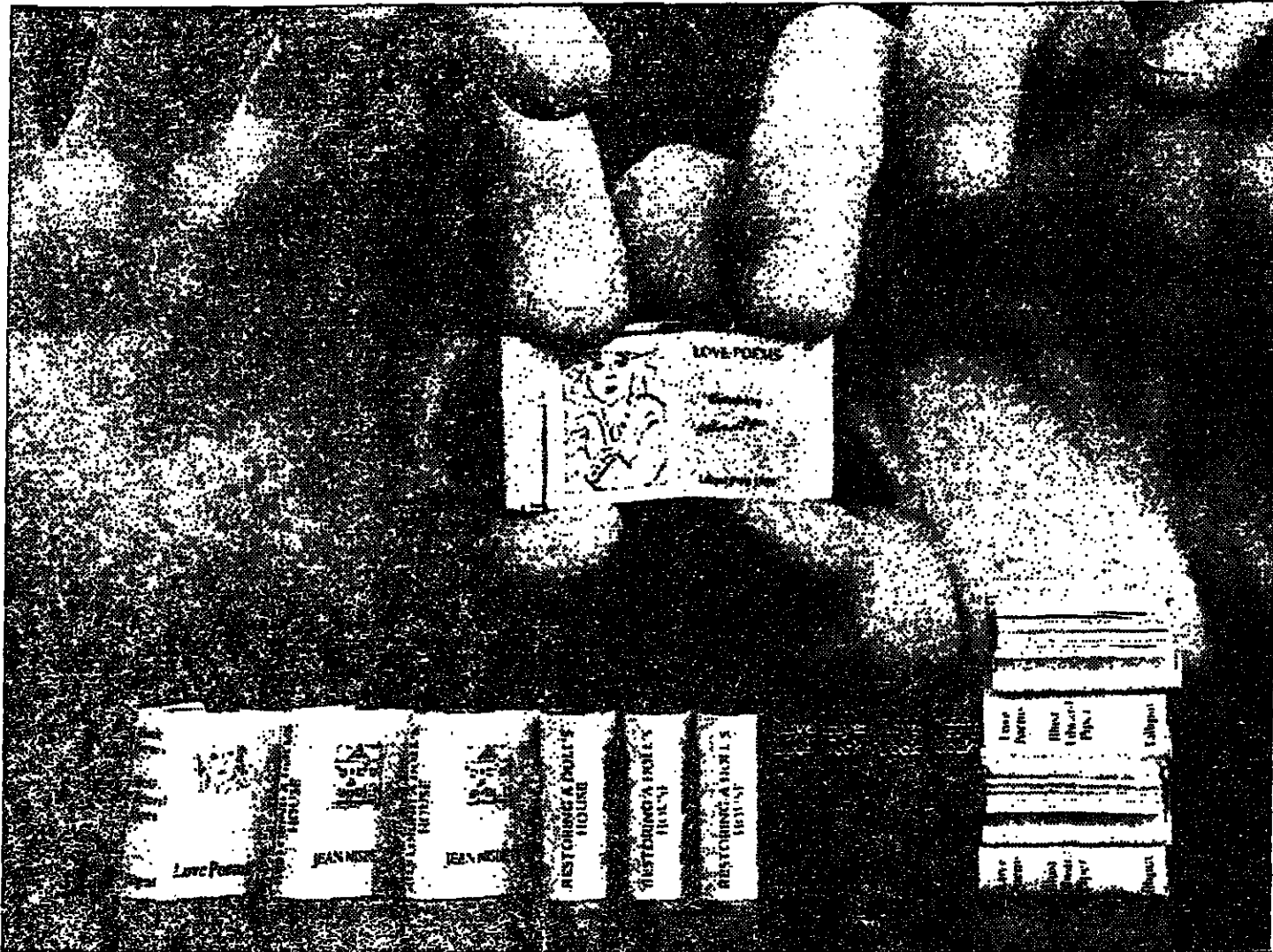
● Young people who do a year's full-time voluntary work in the health or social services before entering higher education should have their student loans converted into grants, a leading voluntary organisation proposed last night.

Elizabeth Hoodless, executive director of Community Service Volunteers, said in her annual report that a record number of volunteers had joined schemes to help disabled people, to protect the environment, or to tackle illiteracy in schools.

"However, shrinking student grants are jeopardising this much-needed support to our health and social services," she said. "More and more potential volunteers now have to use their year between school and higher education to earn enough to survive their first undergraduate year. We believe that the Department of Education should follow the US government's lead and grant 'loan forgiveness' to students who have given a year of community service."

University statistics 1988-89: first destinations of university graduates (Universities Statistical Record, PO Box 130, Cheltenham; £13.50)

Degree vacancies, pages 31-33



Light reading: Books hand-made by Edward Piper on show at a miniature book fair — said to be Europe's first — in Glasgow at the weekend

## Treatment lacking for abused children

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HALF of the local authorities in England and Wales do not have specialist facilities for abused children or young sexual abusers, the National Children's Home discloses in a survey today.

The study, commissioned by the health department, shows that despite growing concern about child abuse there is still a severe shortage of hospital and non-hospital based clinics, family centres and residential facilities. It looked at 182 centres offering help to abused children, although only 20 worked exclusively in that area. Most centres saw about 100 girls each last year, the majority over 14 years old, and about ten boys each, most aged over ten.

Eighty per cent of the centres surveyed employed at least three types of professional staff, including social workers, psychiatrists,

therapists, nurses and psychologists. About 99 centres provided treatment for young sexual abusers, most of whom were male.

● From today accident victims on social security benefit risk losing any compensation they are awarded for pain and suffering, Michael Meacher, Labour social security spokesman, said yesterday. The social security department would deduct the full cost of benefit paid between accident and settlement from the victim's damages, even if that stripped them of any compensation.

The department insisted yesterday that the new regulations, which were designed to ensure that those responsible for compensation did not rely on the state to contribute to the award, would affect only a small minority of accident victims.

## Churches move closer to united evangelical drive

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

CHURCH leaders of all the main denominations will take the first steps this week towards united action to evangelise Britain with the founding of an interchurch organisation for joint mission.

A Churches' Commission on Mission will be launched next Saturday after the inauguration that day of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland at the Roman Catholic and Anglican cathedrals in Liverpool. The inauguration follows the founding two days ago of three new ecumenical bodies in England, Wales and Scotland, marking the end of the British Council of Churches and the first time that the Roman Catholic Church has formally joined the national ecumenical process. The new commission is being founded as

the Catholic church prepares for its "Decade of Evangelisation" and the Church of England for its "Decade of Evangelism" in the new year. Many of the free churches have affirmed their commitment to the Anglican-sponsored Decade.

The Rev John Reardon, general secretary of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, said he hoped the two projects would become one enterprise: the new Churches' Commission on Mission would enable a coming together of the Decades of Evangelism and Evangelisation.

The Rev Donald Elliott and Mrs Helen Lidgett of the United Reformed Church will be seconded from the Conference for World Mission to set up the commission. The conference is to

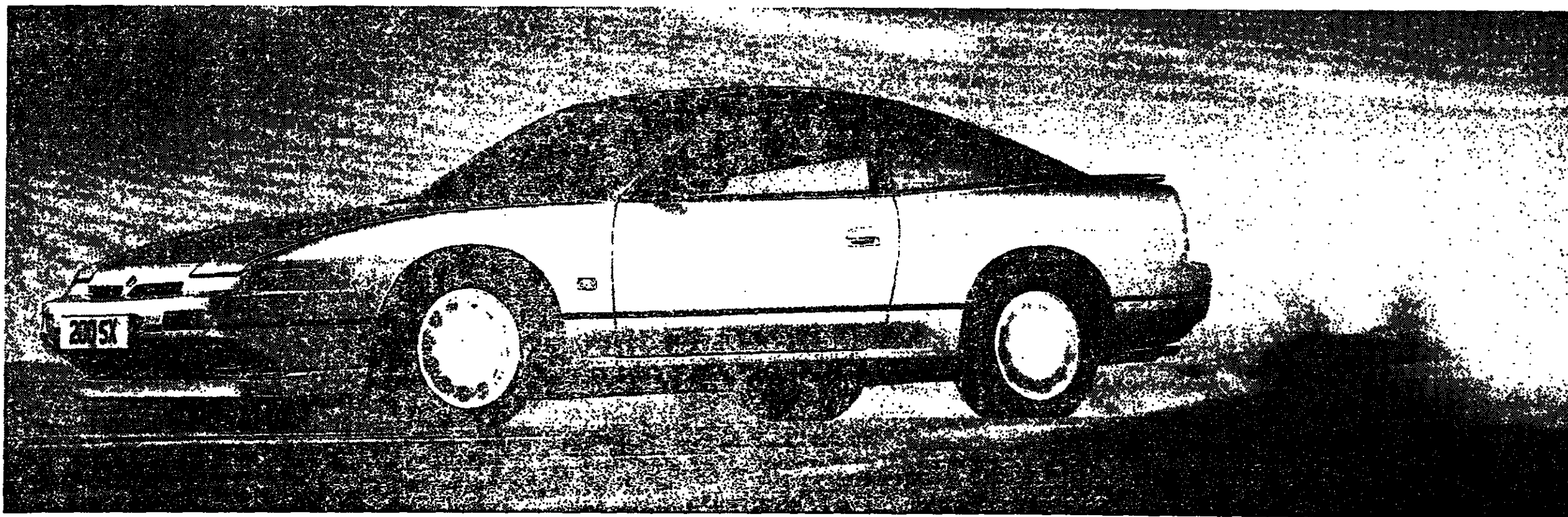
be wound up in two years. ● Large inner-city vicarages are to be sold to a housing association at up to 40 per cent below their market value in a pioneering scheme to provide low-cost rented housing for the homeless in London. Southwark diocese is to be the pilot for the scheme worked out between the Charity Commissioners and the Housing Corporation, which funds housing association schemes.

The Southwark Diocese Housing Association, which manages about 20 homes, will buy properties from the diocesan trusts at discounts of between 10 and 40 per cent. Other housing associations will be invited to develop and manage the properties.

Leading article, page 11

## 'Brilliant new 200SX, Ferrari looks, Porsche pace'

Autocar & Motor



To capture the sheer brilliance of the new 200SX, the experts felt compelled to compare it with other classic sports cars. But they didn't go far enough.

The 200SX is a unique combination of power and beauty.

An eye-catching sleek, aerodynamic body hints at the stunning performance that only a turbo-charged, multi-valve engine can deliver. Flashing from 0-60 in a breathtaking 6.5 seconds and on to a top speed of 140mph, it leaves the opposition standing.

Pin-sharp, power assisted steering, a revolutionary multi-link rear suspension system and rear-wheel drive, give the 200SX handling that is as NISSAN UK LTD. WORTHING, SUSSEX, crisp and precise, as it is exciting. Even in slippery conditions, electronic anti-lock brakes provide the confidence of ultimate control.

And with the sort of luxury interior one would expect from the sports coupe of the 90s, it's no wonder the experts are unanimous.

The 200SX — as individual as you are.

Where conditions allow.



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## Man is evolving new relationship with nature, vets are told

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

CATS, dogs and other pets are at the forefront of "a profoundly new relationship with the natural world" for many people in the industrialised nations, the annual congress of the British Veterinary Association was told at the weekend.

Dr Bruce Fogle, a veterinary clinician, said: "The Western tradition in which man had dominion over all of nature has been perhaps more readily able than other cultures to evolve into a culture where we are now saying that we have a responsibility for all of nature."

"This is a paternalistic attitude, but has allowed Western thought to evolve to a state where we are looking with freshened eyes at our relationship with the rest of the animal world. In doing so, we are coming to a better appreciation of the behaviour of animals and of human nature."

In the past 200 years, populations in the United States and western Europe changed from being 10 per cent urban to 90 per

cent urban. Never had such a big percentage of people "spent so little time in contact with animals and plants".

"Our gardens and our pets have been thrust into the position of being the most important vestige of our former bond with the natural world, a physiological bond that evolved over countless generations," Dr Fogle said. "We cling to them because nurturing them makes us feel better and contributes to our health."

In clinging to pets, we had lost sight of the reason for our behaviour and there was a danger that we could "destroy their status as animals and make them into degraded images of humans".

Domestic pets had no obvious value beyond their social relationship with human owners, Dr Fogle said. That was why pets could "be loved like children and discarded like rags" and why there was such an enormous variation in social and cultural responses to them. The need to nurture remained strong. Surveys showed that

recovery from strokes or cancer surgery was slower and required more use of medicine in people who were lonely. Companion animals could provide social support.

Victims of serious heart attacks were likely to survive longer if they owned a pet. Looking at a tank of fish for ten minutes could lower the blood pressure, while stroking a dog reduced the blood pressure of the stroker and the dog.

Another theory was that in highly urbanised western European and north American societies, pets offered "a culturally acceptable medium for the physical contact we instinctively need or want" and "a means through which men can show and give affection in public situations".

The loyalty proverbially associated with dogs was perhaps best explained in terms of their supplying a constant factor in our lives. The child moved from nature to culture, but the dog remained fixed in between, neither wolf nor child. "It is this constancy we interpret as loyalty," Dr Fogle said.

● 1992 will be crucial for hopes of eradicating "mad cow" disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), John Wilesmith, head of epidemiology at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, in Weybridge, told the congress.

"If the number of new cases of BSE continues to rise throughout that year, then we would have to re-think all our assumptions about the disease. If they start to fall, we would not necessarily be out of the wood, but it would be an optimistic sign," he said.

Calculations about how long it will take to eradicate the disease have been based on the premise that the infection cannot pass from one animal to another and that animals which ate feed containing protein from sheep infected with scrapie are "dead-end hosts".

If so, BSE should die out around the turn of the century, Dr Wilesmith said. There was no evidence of transmission of BSE from one animal to another, or from an infected cow to her calves. About 1,200 new cases of BSE were being confirmed a month, which over a year worked out at 3.6 cases for every 1,000 adult animals. To date, 17,724 BSE cases have been confirmed.



Beating the men: Katy Cropper in Wensleydale on the Yorkshire Moors with her dog Trim at her feet

## Winning woman and her dog

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE dogs have had their day, so have the men. Last night it was the turn of a shepherdess to conquer an aggressively male serve, when Katy Cropper became the first woman to win the final in the now inappropriate named television series, *One A and His Dog*.

In partnership with Trim, three and a half year old black and white collie, Miss Cropper was first woman to reach the final the programme since it began in 1975, and beat off a strong experienced Scottish challenge take the trophy for women and Yorkshire.

Miss Cropper, aged 28, who is that sheepdog trialing is her recreation, had several convictions in the preliminary he including one over Paddy Ro the present Irish champion. In final, shown on BBC2 last night she beat William Cormack, a veteran from the Scottish Highlands with six Scottish caps, his three-year old collie Ben.

Miss Cropper said that I was the best dog she had owned, while Mr Cormack admitted that what Ben lacked experience, he appeared to make up in eagerness.

"When I first started trialing I found the sheepdog men encouraging and very friendly, as time has gone on I have realised that there are just a few who I respect for me, and I think I find it very difficult to see woman handler," Miss Cropper said.

## Crucial time for new head of fraud office

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BARBARA Mills, QC, prosecuting counsel in the Guinness trial which ended last week, takes over today as director of the serious fraud office. Mrs Mills, aged 49, assumes the post at a time when ministers face pressure to strengthen the office to avert any loss of confidence in the City's system of self-regulation.

MPs have called for the office, which was created 1988 to investigate and prosecute the most serious and complex cases of fraud, to be given increased resources.

Last week Menzies Campbell, a Liberal Democrat member of the select committee on trade and industry, said that this would be "most effective means of discouraging future activity of this [the Guinness] kind".

Mrs Mills, one of the small handful of female high-fliers at the Bar who have reached the top of their profession, is the third holder of the post of director and the first to come from the practising Bar.

Nicholas Hopgood, senior clerk at her chambers, said: "She will be a great asset to the serious fraud office. She has already seen the system from one side and now she will see it from the other side."

Mrs Mills is a highly experienced criminal QC for the prosecution and defence. From 1981 to 1986 she was junior crown prosecutor at the central criminal court. She was leading defence counsel in the Winston Silcott murder trial (arising from the Tottenham estate riots in London), and prosecuted Michael Fagan, the man who broke into the Queen's bedroom. She has also specialised in rape cases.

In the Guinness trial she was the leading prosecuting counsel of the team of criminal lawyers, with Michael Chadwick, QC, leading prosecuting counsel for the civil side. She was called to the Bar in 1963. She was a recorder by 1982 and took silk in 1986.

Letters, page 11

## Jail enquiry explores code of standards

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE government-commissioned enquiry into prison riots in April is showing strong interest in the idea that prisons should be covered by a code of standards to be monitored independently.

All five members of the enquiry team, led by Lord Justice Woolf, are believed to be sceptical about existing "prison rules", which define prisoners' rights and the Home Office's duties towards them. An idea gaining ground in discussions is that a new code, clearly defining the minimum prisoners should expect in terms of cell space, hygiene and access to work, education, visits and recreation, should be devised. However, some members are worried about proposals that the

code should be legally enforceable in line with penal practice in the United States.

In the belief that ministers remain implacably opposed to a statutory code, they think it would be better if the code sought to raise prison conditions by persuasion. Performance of individual jails, though, would be monitored, probably by the existing Prisons Inspectorate. Judge Stephen Tumm, the chief inspector of prisons, who has recently joined the enquiry, called for a statutory code several years ago. However, it is understood that he is now less certain about the benefits of exposing the Home Office to litigation while conditions for many inmates remain so poor.

Shortly after the riots, he stated that the first priority should be to improve the physical fabric of the prison estate and to end the degrading practice of slopping out before the year 2000. Under the government's programme 7,000 inmates will not have access to integral sanitation by that date.

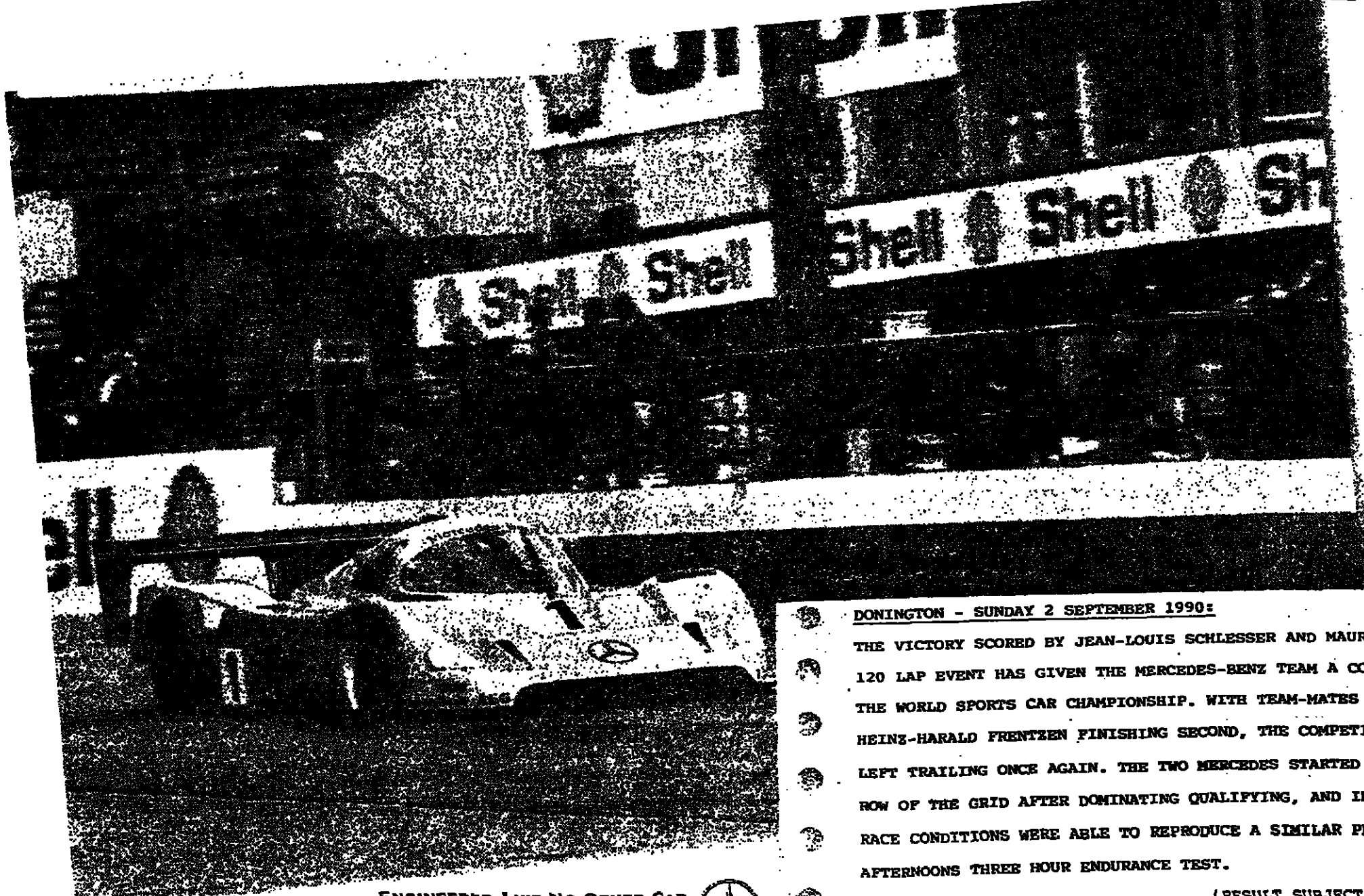
One difficulty the team faces is deciding precisely where to pitch the standard, given the widely differing conditions in British jails. If the level is set too low, good prisons may have little incentive to improve but if the code is too ambitious had establishments may simply regard the targets as unobtainable.

Support for minimum standards is voiced by two leading

penal reform groups, the National Association for the Care Resettlement of Offenders and Prison Reform Trust, and National Association for Prison Officers in their written submissions to the second part of the Woolf enquiry, which is this month.

The submissions, published today, claim that prisons contravene many international agreements including the United Nations standard minimum rules and Council of Europe's prison rules. The UN example states inmates should normally be housed one to a cell; in England and Wales jails some 5,000 inmates share three to a cell, 12,000 two to a cell.

# DONINGTON 1-2 FOR MERCEDES-BENZ



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DONINGTON - SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 1990:

THE VICTORY SCORED BY JEAN-LOUIS SCHLESSER AND MAURO BALDI IN TODAY'S 120 LAP EVENT HAS GIVEN THE MERCEDES-BENZ TEAM A COMMANDING LEAD IN THE WORLD SPORTS CAR CHAMPIONSHIP. WITH TEAM-MATES JOCHEN MASS AND HEINZ-HARALD FRENTZEN FINISHING SECOND, THE COMPETITION HAS BEEN LEFT TRAILING ONCE AGAIN. THE TWO MERCEDES STARTED FROM THE FRONT ROW OF THE GRID AFTER DOMINATING QUALIFYING, AND IN THE EXCELLENT RACE CONDITIONS WERE ABLE TO REPRODUCE A SIMILAR PERFORMANCE IN THIS AFTERNOONS THREE HOUR ENDURANCE TEST.

(RESULT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION)

مكتبة فيليب



# Yeltsin poised to go ahead with Russian market reform

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE autumn session of the Russian Federation parliament opens today with a programme of radical legislation that is likely to widen existing divisions between Russia and the central Soviet authorities.

The opening will be chaired by Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, who on Saturday called for the resignation of Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet prime minister. He also accused President Gorbachev of indecision on economic reform after last week's meeting of top policy-making bodies failed to reach agreement.

Mr Yeltsin said that the Russian public had lost all confidence in Moscow's ability to extricate the country from its present crisis. The immediate point of contention between Russia and the centre is how to make the proposed transition to a market economy. Mr Gorbachev insists not only that a single blueprint should be submitted to the Soviet parliament, but that it should be a fusion of two competing drafts.

Mr Yeltsin and the Russians favour a programme drafted by Stanislav Shatalin. Mr Gorbachev's economic adviser, in conjunction with personal nominees of the two leaders. This programme establishes a firm timetable for reform and is believed to be based on rapid privatisation, extensive property rights for individual republics, an immediate credit squeeze and a gradual relaxation of price controls. It derives from principles set out by Mr Yeltsin's team last June, known as the 500-day programme.

The other programme is the revised draft of the Soviet government plan, compiled by Mr Ryzhkov in conjunction with Leonid Abalkin, his deputy, and Yuri Maslyukov, the chairman of the state planning committee (Gosplan). Mr Yeltsin regards this as "more directives, more decrees and all the things we know do not work and will fail".

Mr Yeltsin described Mr Gorbachev's insistence that elements of the government plan should be incorporated into the rival programme as impossible. "The two programmes cannot be combined," he said.

After a day of talks last Wednesday, Mr Gorbachev and Mr Yeltsin appeared to have reached a measure of agreement. After the failure of the two-day policy meeting on Friday, however, it emerged that their agreement extended no further than the need for a single draft. If there is no agreement on content, the Russian parliament may well proceed with its 500-day plan, while the centre follows a more centralised programme. Mr Yeltsin has set a

deadline of October 1, after which Russia will proceed alone.

Mr Gorbachev's priority has been to preserve the impression of unity at all costs. He argued at a press conference on Friday that economic change could only succeed if all sections of society were behind it. Now, however, he is presented with a straight choice between the support of Mr Yeltsin and the support of the government and his prime minister.

He needs the support of Mr Yeltsin, because the Russian leader commands considerably more popular trust and support than he does. An opinion poll published at the weekend said that Mr Yeltsin was rated the "most prestigious politician" by 47.1 per cent of those polled, compared with 29 per cent a year ago. Mr Gorbachev's rating fell from 36.2 per cent to 18.4 per cent, while that of Mr Ryzhkov diverged from 20.6 per cent to 3.1 per cent.

As well as several bills underpinning rapid reform, including one to permit private property ownership and another on small firms, the Russian parliament is also expected to consider a new constitution, modelled on the US and French constitutions. Proposals likely to be approved include renaming the Russian Federation, currently the RSFSR (the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic) to the RFR (the Russian Federation of Republics) and a first section devoted entirely to human rights.

According to Mr Yeltsin and Oleg Rumyantsev, the chairman of the drafting committee, the new constitution will stress the rights and obligations of the individual vis à vis the state, not the rights and obligations of the state, as has been the case in previous Soviet constitutions.

## Albanian strike to bring Kosovo to a standstill

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

KOSOVO will come to a standstill today when the entire Albanian population stages a 24-hour general strike amid soaring tensions and fears of clashes as the Serbian authorities threaten to quash resistance and maintain order at any cost.

Tensions have been increasing since Serbia suspended all legal institutions, dismissed thousands of Albanians and practically abolished the region's autonomy, placing it under direct Serbian control.

Repression has been stepped up during the past two months and a peak was reached two days ago when police in Pristina attacked peaceful demonstrators, who were waiting for the arrival of an American congressional fact-finding delegation. The team left more than ever convinced of Serbia's continuing abuse of human rights.

The strike is in protest against mass dismissals by the Serbian authorities who are using the sackings as a means to keep the Albanians at their heel ever since regional government and parliament were dissolved because their leaders, all Albanians, were not ready to carry out Serbian policy. The local television station and the Albanian-language daily newspaper have also been shut down. In two months almost 10,000 people from university professors to labourers have lost their jobs.

Agim Malla, who until recently was director of the television

station, and other Albanians employed in the local media who were sacked in the most recent purge, said: "Police have become the fate of us Albanians at this moment".

The widespread repression has widened the divide between the 1.7 million Albanians and the Serbs who represent less than 9 per cent of the region's population to an extent where many fear it can no longer be bridged. "Hatred has now assumed frightening proportions to the point of the irrational and extremes have now been polarised to such an extent that there is no longer room for the moderate centre position," Mr Malla said.

In advance of today's strike the Serbian authorities have arrested the leaders of the independent trade unions of the region, Dr Hajrulla Gorani, and his deputy, Dr Ilir Tolaj. They both have been sentenced to two months in jail. Four other union activists, all of them medical doctors, have also been imprisoned.

The dismal human-rights record shown by Yugoslavia in Kosovo is frustrating Belgrade's efforts to seek closer relations with the European Community and to woo the financial backing essential for its reform programme. From being a domestic issue, Kosovo has become an international one.

The European parliament has endorsed several resolutions condemning the human-rights abuses

but to no avail. Senator Robert Dole, who led the US delegation last week, condemned Serbia and expressed profound concern over its systematic abuse of Albanian ethnic rights. A resolution by the US Congress which has been pending is now certain to be adopted and will go beyond simple condemnation, possibly linking future aid to the human rights issue in Kosovo.

Similar concern has also been expressed by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German foreign minister who, during his brief visit to Belgrade, said that the Kosovo problem would be a topic of discussion when the foreign affairs committee of the German Bundestag meets later in the week.

Many Yugoslavians fear that the country is in the vicious grip of a civil war. The most glaring case is in Kosovo where almost a hundred Albanians have already died. Members of the Albanian opposition fear that because they are denied access to Albanian language media they may not be able to control the situation. The Albanians, however, have been called upon to stay home during today's 24-hour strike.

Rally cancelled: Militant Serbs yesterday cancelled at the last moment an anti-Muslim rally in the Sandzak region which borders Kosovo. Fears of violence between Serbs and Muslims led to the organisers from the extreme Serb Ras party backing down.



The Pope, beside a carved African crucifix, blessing the congregation at yesterday's outdoor Mass

## Pope calls for moral drive against Aids

FROM AFP IN DAR ES SALAAM

ABOUT 80,000 Tanzanians attended an open-air Mass celebrated by the Pope in Swahili yesterday, the second day of his four-nation African tour. The Pope arrived at the Jangwani sports ground to the rhythms of Swahili hymns and traditional drums. As he drove through the crowd in an open black Rolls Royce, the huge congregation rose to their feet, ululating, clapping and waving.

Among the dignitaries at yesterday's mass was President Nyerere, a devout Catholic.

The Pope hopes his seventh visit to Africa will strengthen the Catholic Church in the continent, which he sees as a bulwark of the Christian faith against the rising power of Islam, Vatican sources said. As an indication of the church's growth in a country where Catholics make up 22 per cent of the population of 24 million, the Pope ordained 43 Tanzanian priests.

On Saturday the Pope appealed against the spread of Aids, saying measures to prevent it would not be effective if society had no moral responsibility.

Today the Pope is to visit the predominantly Catholic town of Songea before going to bless the sick in Mwanza, on the shores of Lake Victoria, where 30 per cent of the population has the Aids virus. From Tanzania the pontiff will visit Burundi, Rwanda, and Ivory Coast.

## Judge condemns police for March township deaths

By RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ONE day after they were condemned by a judge for the unjustifiable killing of 11 blacks, South African police admitted yesterday that they had used tear gas on mourners at the funerals of four victims of the country's black-against-black violence.

A damning report by Mr Justice Richard Goldstone found that police who last March fired on black demonstrators in Sebokeng township, 30 miles south of Johannesburg, acted in an undisciplined manner and used disproportionate force. As well as the dead, 281 people were injured after police opened fire without orders on a march organised by the African National Congress-affiliated United Democratic Front and in other flare-ups the same day in nearby townships.

The judge found that 127 of the victims were shot in the back as they ran away and he recommended that criminal charges against individual policemen should be considered.

Further protests against the police were made yesterday after mourners were attacked with tear gas at Tokoza stadium, near Johannesburg. The police said a group had begun an illegal march after a funeral rally for four people. In continuing black-against-black violence an armed gang murdered 15 people in Tokoza and Tembisa, another township near Johannesburg.

Mr Justice Goldstone was appointed by President de Klerk to investigate the Sebokeng shootings after the ANC called off scheduled talks with the government in April.

This report will reinforce claims made by black leaders that the police showed partiality towards supporters of the Zulu Inkatha movement during recent violence in townships near Johannesburg which has left more than 500 dead and thousands injured, and during the four-year war between Inkatha and the ANC in Natal which has claimed more than 3,000 lives.

Mr Justice Goldstone said in his report: "I was disturbed at the callous attitude of a small number of policemen. They displayed unconcern for the lethal nature of their ammunition and for the consequences of its use. No police force should tolerate this situation."

Some of his criticism is directed at Captain W. J. du Plooy, the commander of a 47-man reaction unit. He failed to inform his superior, Colonel O. P. Mazibuko, the black police commander in Sebokeng, that his unit was in the township and he increased its strength with 22 special black municipal constables.

The judge said the way the special constables loaded their weapons without receiving orders was a matter of grave concern and he urged the authorities to reconsider the use of special constables. He also criticised the organisers of the march and said they had been negligent and irresponsible in the haphazard way in which they had planned events. There should be more consultation between march organisers and police. Mr Justice Goldstone said: "If this type of demonstration is to become a regular feature of political expression in South Africa, the sooner it is subjected to known and sensible rules the better."

Adriaan Vlok, the minister for law and order, welcomed the recommendations and said "corrective measures" would be taken to prevent similar incidents. The ANC said the report demonstrated "indiscipline, callousness and readiness to shoot on the part of the police". The organisation added that if it had not called off the April talks any internal police inquiry would have resulted in a "whitewash".

● HARARE: LEADERS of the seven frontline states surrounding South Africa blamed Chief

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, for the continuing black against black violence in the republic when they met for a one-day summit in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, at the weekend (Michael Hartnack writes).

Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress's deputy president, and Johnson Mlambo, the chairman of the rival Pan Africanist Congress, addressed the summit, chaired by President Kaunda of Zambia and attended by President Masire of Botswana, President Nujoma of Namibia, President Chissano of Mozambique, and the foreign ministers of Angola, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

After the meeting President Kaunda said: "The summit sent a message to President de Klerk of South Africa to stop the carnage, we have done that, and comrade Mandela will deliver that message to Mr de Klerk. The wanton destruction of life by supporters of Buthelezi has reached a very dangerous stage and cannot be allowed to continue," he told a news conference.

## Austrians to charge former chancellor

Vienna — Austria's former chancellor Fred Sinowatz, Leopold Kraus, the former foreign minister, and Karl Bleckha, the former minister of the interior, will be charged with misuse of office, according to the justice minister, Egmont Foregger (Brenda Fowler writes). The charges are connected with the illegal export of howitzers by Noricum, a state owned company which is now out of business, to Iran during its war with Iraq.

## Spanish bombing

Madrid — A driverless car loaded with explosives crashed into a guard shelter on the docks in the Basque city of Bilbao early yesterday and blew up, killing a policeman and a civilian and injuring two other people. Police suspect the outlawed group Eta

## Minister arrested

Quetta, Pakistan — Mohammad Akbar Lasi, the minister of state for labour and manpower in Benazir Bhutto's cabinet, has been arrested here in connection with the process of accountability launched by the caretaker government. (AFP)

## Parliament back

Bucharest — Romania's parliament, dominated by the National Salvation Front, reconvenes today amid food rationing, spreading industrial strife and fears of a winter of violence as extremist opponents of the government turn their attention to an extra-parliamentary struggle.

## Launch hopes

Cape Canaveral — Ground controllers have re-established radio contact with a telescope on board the space shuttle Columbia, setting the stage for a possible third launch attempt on Thursday, NASA said. (Reuters)

## Pyongyang visit

Tokyo — Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, arrived in Pyongyang yesterday for talks with leaders of North Korea, which has been unhappy with Soviet overtures to Pyongyang's arch rival, South Korea. (AP)

## Cuba rationing

Havana — Cuba announced stringent rationing, with restrictions on such basic items as soap, matches and canned meat. The move came three days after the government imposed energy cuts. (AFP)

## Soviet base sets out to polish up its image

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

ON A wet Sunday morning, the Soviet barracks in the East Berlin suburb of Karlshorst failed to create the desired impression of smart cheerfulness, despite the strains of marching music blaring in the parade ground against a background of boardings reading: "The Motherland is looking forward to the future".

Open day at the barracks has been long awaited. Months of worsening tensions between Moscow's troops and native East Germans who no longer have to make any secret of their desire for the Russians to go home have led to the military command fending off would-be visitors with excuses hardly mindful of glasnost.

The Berliner Brigade spent last week trimming its lawns and polishing the massive bronze statue of Lenin before throwing open its gates. The 2,000-strong brigade is the elite of the Western Group of Forces, attracting the most gifted linguists and technicians in the Soviet Army, the pick of the 360,000 forces stationed in East Germany.

"We select them very carefully; it is considered a great honour to serve in Berlin," said Colonel Eduard Schevchenko watching the division's acrobatic display of bayonet manipulation. President Gorbachev has agreed to a complete Soviet pullout from East Germany in three to four years with Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor. With the retreat beginning last week from Neuruppin, most Soviet troops here have leaving on their minds. Many say privately that they no longer have any role to play, but fear of inadequate housing and unemployment at home is making growing numbers feel that life in Germany is preferable to a return home.

Pressure on the troops is growing in the communities where the army has long outstayed its welcome. Decades of disruptive manoeuvres and frequent abuses of privilege under the former regime's protection of the former regime's "fraternal bond" with the Soviet Union have led to resentment.



A Mohawk Indian confronting a Canadian army armoured vehicle as it advances on the barricaded Kahnawake settlement near Oka, west of Montreal. Several hundred troops and armoured personnel carriers rolled into the community on Saturday after fighting broke out among rival Indian factions on the reserve (John Best writes from Ottawa). The army met no resistance as it enveloped barricades blocking roads through the settlement. Yesterday only one barricade remained to be taken and the few Mohawks still at the front lines, outnumbered and outgunned, appeared to be

in no mood to defend it. The barricades went up in July after the Quebec provincial police attempted to storm a blockade that the Mohawks had put up to prevent expansion of a golf course. A policeman was killed in that skirmish. Negotiations to resolve the land dispute remained suspended yesterday. The army was called in last month to replace the police. The move at Oka came after the army had successfully cleared Mohawk barricades near the Mercier Bridge on the south shore of the St Lawrence River at Montreal. Traffic across the bridge is expected to resume within days.

## UN plan unlikely to end bloodshed in Cambodia

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BANGKOK

DURING a recent visit to Moscow, the story goes, Hun Sen, prime minister of the Vietnamese-backed regime in Cambodia, was taken to the circus by his Soviet hosts. Much impressed, he said he would like one just like it back home. As a Soviet diplomat in Phnom Penh tells it, the Soviet hosts smiled indulgently: a circus was just what war-ravaged Cambodia needed.

Nevertheless the word was passed up the line. Someone made the decision that, yes, Hun Sen would have his circus. Now the building is beginning to go up in Phnom Penh. It is the last big aid project that a Soviet Union in the grip of political change will bequeath its friends there.

Moscow's economic assistance will not dry up completely, but there will be no more important projects. After all, just how much longer will the Phnom Penh regime last, especially if the United Nations Security Council plan for Cambodia agreed this week, is put into effect?

At the same time, Hun Sen is no longer the ringmaster in the Cambodian capital. A harder-line group led by Chea Sim is cracking the whip and an era of comparative liberalism under the Viet-

namese-backed regime is ending, just as in Vietnam itself. In communist Asia it is as if the changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have been happening on another planet.

But this is a side question to the issues of war and peace in an exhausted, blood-soaked land. To hear some commentators in the West tell it this week, the war is all over bar the talking, after the announcement of the security council's plan for a UN contingent to administer Cambodia until free elections can be held.

Cambodians know better. They have endured little but war for 20 years and, under the ruthless Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, terror. Certainly there are modestly hopeful signs, but a lot of compromise is still needed.

The stumbling block lies in the bitter distrust between the Phnom Penh regime, whose leaders, like Chea Sim and Hun Sen, are former members of the Khmer Rouge itself, which is still directed, whatever front men it may put up, by Pol Pot. His cadres regard the Phnom Penh leaders as former believers who sold out to Cambodia's traditional enemies, the Vietnamese. The leaders in Phnom Penh are,

not unnaturally, reluctant to allow the Khmer Rouge any role in an interim period before elections. They do not believe the Khmer Rouge would really hand over its weapons at UN collection points.

A clearer reading of the future could be available this month in Jakarta, where the four factions may meet to hammer out such details as the composition of a 12-member council to serve as an interim government. Khmer Rouge insists that the three factions in the so-called "resistance" coalition hold nine of the 12 seats while Phnom Penh demands a 50-50 split.

Despite the hope stemming from the security council initiative, blood will flow before peace is a reality. But an extremely cautious optimism should be permitted. Cambodians may one day get to see their circus in peace. ● BANGKOK: Amnesty International says in a report published today that Khmer Rouge guerrillas who allegedly killed more than 15 people in two attacks on trains in July should be brought to justice. The human-rights group says the victims apparently were singled out because they were employed by the Phnom Penh government. (AP)



# Girls won't be boys

Ronald Butt

Fortunately for human wisdom and understanding, the messages we receive are not always those the sender intended to convey. The words are heard correctly but the thinking they reveal is rightly understood in a sense different from the purpose of the writer or speaker. A classic example was provided by a paper delivered the other day to the British Association (sometimes known affectionately as the British Ass). Entitled "Adolescent Resistance to Sex Equality Messages", it was given by Dr Sara Delamont, Reader in Sociology at Cardiff.

Her purpose was to contrast the enlightenment of social science with the darkness of folklore which rejects experts' advice. It was a strikingly illuminating analysis, but not quite in the way Dr Delamont intended.

It began with the failure of 2,000 schoolgirls to benefit from visiting a women's roadshow in Cardiff designed to "challenge sex role stereotyping". Dr Delamont found that out of 500 of the girls seen later at school generally held "egalitarian and non-stereotyped views" and had absorbed the general message about women in "non-traditional occupations". Yet this, alas, did not mean they were considering such occupations for themselves. Most looked to the well established realm of "women's work". How could they be so benighted?

The girls had said that their own interests and ability, as well as relevance to the jobs they had in mind, had determined their choice of subjects for examination study. But Dr Delamont knew better: There was a "hidden agenda" affecting their perception of their ability to do well at a subject. Thus when the girls said they thought physics "boring", "hard" and more likely to appeal to boys, who were encouraged to be interested from an early age, she concluded that "it is the subject matter of physics, or more probably, the way it is presented, that needs to be addressed if the numbers of girls choosing to study the subject are to increase".

That, one would have thought, at least raises the question why would be the consequence for boys and girls who are genuinely motivated, of changing the presentation of physics to attract girls less interested in the subject. The larger question, however, is why it is taken as axiomatic by people of Dr Delamont's way of thinking that the number of girls studying physics (or any other subject) has to increase. Those girls with a natural enthusiasm for this or any other subject should, of course, be encouraged to study it and not be put off if it is thought not a "fashionable" study for girls. But why should the world be a worse place if, nevertheless, far fewer girls do science than boys? What would be the attitude of sociologists like Dr Delamont if it could be conclusively proved that

only a small minority were genuinely interested?

Dr Delamont's explanation for so few girls saying they want to be lawyers, engineers or plumbers was what she called the "folklore" which determines female and male attitudes to jobs. Attempts to reduce stereotyping must, she said, start with the "folk models". In "initiatives to change the sexual division of labour", boys as well as girls should be challenged.

Why should boys avoid languages and home economics? Why should they not be got to enjoy ballet or petting? Dr Delamont also believes that since most jobs are boring, the social aspect must be emphasised. Indeed, the nub of her argument lies in the following sentence: "It is no use persuading a girl to get an apprenticeship in a garage if none of the men are able to be workmates with a female."

But why should the academic study of sociology concern itself with persuasion of any sort? Those whose idea of a good society is one in which there must be women plumbers and train drivers should join a pressure group.

Dr Delamont's argument typifies the egalitarianism that drives much sociological thinking and it reveals the contempt of many sociologists for the accumulated wisdom of society which is contained within the category dismissed as folklore. She spoke of the despair of the experts because the people do not follow their "good advice". Often, of course, the experts are right, but by no means always. It was experts who put up the tower blocks (against common sense), sex experts who a few years ago campaigned for the contraceptive pill (the dangers of which are now medically recognised) to be freely available off prescription, experts who designed our present faulty education system and experts who, contrary to present evidence, persistently argue that freely available pornography has had nothing to do with sexual violence. The list is, of course, much longer.

"Initiatives designed to change sex roles in schools" must, Dr Delamont thinks, tackle the misapprehensions of folklore. But observation confirms that there is a natural tendency for a majority of either sex to be better at or more interested in some skills than in others. Though there are both brilliant and incompetent mathematicians of both sexes, I doubt that any mathematics teacher would deny that fewer girls than boys are naturally drawn to mathematics.

Dr Delamont's address raises two basic questions. If either sex does have a natural predisposition towards or against any particular occupation, should we try to change it? And is the kind of thinking that Dr Delamont exemplified really scientific sociology or merely political opinion in sociological clothing?

...and moreover

## IAN MCINTYRE

Unlike Matthew Parris in Peru, I did not see anyone eating a fluorescent light tube at the Braemar Games on Royal Deeside on Saturday. I was, on the other hand, exposed to the Ontario Mashed Legion Pipes and Drums at point-blank range, and I saw a 25-stone kilted Dutchman tossing the caber.

Not everybody believes this, but I also once saw Alan Coren in a kilt. He was swaggering about, sporrans askew, just outside the editor's office at *The Times*. He said he had got it from a theatrical costumier, who really should have advised him against wearing brown shoes, which traditionalists north of the Highland line regard as a hanging matter.

I assumed at the time that he might be trying to construct a new personality for himself as the Laird of Crickwood. It could also, of course, have been an attempt to ingratiate himself with the large Scottish mafia to be found in all London newspaper offices, where they divide their time between correcting the natives' English and blocking their promotion prospects.

Citizen Coren may not have realised this, but the sight of men in kilts outside Scotland can quite easily provoke disorderly behaviour. In occupied Paris after the allied victory at Waterloo, the Tsar of Russia requested that some Scottish soldiers be paraded before him. He was so intrigued by what he saw that he lifted up the kilt of a sergeant Thomas Campbell "so that he might not be deceived".

There was nothing of that sort at Braemar on Saturday. I'm happy to say, and for that we are indebted to the sobering influence of the House of Hanover. When Victoria and Albert fell in love with Deeside in the 1840s and bought what is now Balmoral, the Queen reversed centuries of Scottish sartorial practice by insisting that anyone who worked for her and wore the kilt should also wear underpants.

The household complied - even the Queen's uncouth favourite, John Brown. We know this because when his Highland regalia was auctioned earlier this year, the collection included a pair of tartan under-

pants, complete with back-flap and front fly - "a few moth holes at crutch", said the Sotheby's catalogue, "otherwise excellent condition". (Poor Brown later became overfond of the *vin d'Alsace* and was carried off by a chill in the age of 57 - perhaps he secretly defied his royal mistress but not always doing up his flaps properly.)

Saturday's programme modestly described this year's Highland gathering as the 174th, but everyone on Deeside knows that it really goes back to the 11th century when King Malcolm Canmore needed a new running footman and organised a hill race to the summit of Craig Choinnich.

Highland Games used to offer rather more robust entertainment than they do today. In 1822, at the Northern Meeting in Inverness, three cows were stunned with sledgehammers and then torn apart, limb from limb, by the bare hands of the competitors. In more recent times, one legendary Deeside "heavy" threw the hammer into the crowd and hit a photographer from the magazine *Health and Strength* sent specially to interview him.

The way things have turned out it's just as well that the unstable Prince Charles Edward Stuart didn't carry the day at Culloden. Just consider. When he was on the run after the battle, somebody provided him with a kilt, although he had not been seen in one since he arrived in Scotland.

It is recorded that he put it on, leapt in the air and said that he now "only required to have the itch to become a complete Highlander". It's the sort of line one would expect to hear nowadays only in a relaxed interview with the editor of *The Spectator*.

Poetic justice was lying in wait in the heather for the Young Pretender, however, along with certain other things. "Later in his wanderings," writes one of his biographers, "that characteristic, too, was added to him, among many other disagreeable accidents and companions that come to those who cannot change their clothes." I must remember to mention that to the Laird of Crickwood.

After Mrs Thatcher's warning, Marc Weller reports on US plans for an international tribunal

# When Saddam is brought to court...

Crime does not pay. While this maxim operates fairly efficiently in national law, on the international plane it has been almost forgotten since the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals closed the book on the second world war. Now the world community may perhaps have been shocked into linking international crimes with effective punishment once again.

Mrs Thatcher left no doubt about this question yesterday. Referring to the hostages in Kuwait and Iraq, she announced in a television interview the British intention to "prosecute the requisite people for their totally uncivilised and brutal behaviour".

In America, preparations for a possible war crimes trial began on the very first day of the aggression against Kuwait. The idea originated in the Department of the Army, which maintains a staff of lawyers trained to prosecute such cases. When the Iraqi authorities began to move foreigners to installations of military and strategic value, a decision was taken to "chalk up" all offences committed against American and allied nationals.

Shortly afterwards, European Community foreign ministers were the first to serve formal and

public warning to politicians and officers in Baghdad that they may be held individually accountable for any wrongdoing against foreign nationals in which they take part. For under the laws of war, a local lieutenant who carries out an inhumane order is just as responsible as his superiors who gave it.

The charges being considered in America sound serious indeed. One informed official mentioned to me rape, pillage, plundering and the general failure of the Iraqi authorities to control their troops in occupied Kuwait. Above all, the senior army officers in Baghdad have to be concerned about the accusation of hostage-taking.

Foreigners in a country which is invaded are fully protected by the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Under these conventions, civilians may be removed from Kuwait only if it is necessary for their safety. Their use as "human shields" would so outrageously violate humanitarian principles that it would be classed as a "grave breach" of the Geneva law.

Individuals who have committed such grave breaches - which also include the wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment of protected persons - cannot hide from justice anywhere in the world. Wherever they are found at

the conclusion of a conflict, they have to be tried or extradited.

Rather than seeking extradition of war criminals for trial in the US, Washington would prefer the establishment of an international, Nuremberg-style tribunal by the United Nations. Proceedings before a truly international court, it is argued, would diminish the impression of western victors taking revenge on the vanquished. In addition, it would be possible to try high-ranking Iraqi officials for other international wrongs.

American lawyers are therefore investigating the possibility of charging Saddam Hussein with "offences against the peace and security of mankind". Under that concept, repeatedly embraced in abstract terms by the UN General Assembly, he might be held personally liable for starting a war. Furthermore, during the Iran-Iraq conflict, a UN commission found that Iraq had used poison gas in violation of the laws of war and the 1925 Geneva Protocol. And the massive gas attacks against Saddam's own Kurdish population may well amount to genocide.

Not everyone, however, is always happy about giving teeth to the notion of crimes against peace. For example, when the US intervention in Panama was con-

demned in the General Assembly early this year, a number of Third World nations demanded the trial of President Bush.

A concrete plan for an international tribunal to try Saddam Hussein has not yet been put forward at UN headquarters in New York, but it was floated informally among a group of experts in Geneva last week. In addition to Kuwait and other aggrieved parties, it is hoped that Arab states, the Soviet Union and neutral and non-aligned nations will nominate judges.

If the multilateral option fails, Washington might be prepared to proceed on its own. The case of General Noriega, who faces drug charges under US law in Florida, is invoked as an example of Washington's determination to be tough with offenders, even if they happen to be high-ranking foreign officials.

Under US law, war crimes are dealt with by the military authorities in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Since the end of the second world war, prosecutions for war crimes in the US have been directed mainly at American servicemen. In a celebrated case, Lt William Calley received a life sentence for the slaughter of civilians at the

Vietnamese village of My Lai in 1969. His immediate superior, Captain Ernest Medina, was acquitted on a technicality, and Calley was freed after only two years. The US official in charge of the Kuwait dossier was in Vietnam, where he successfully prosecuted 28 marines who had committed acts of murder which could be classified as war crimes.

In addition to meeting on military justice to Saddam Hussein and his officers, American courts could institute proceedings under the 1986 anti-terrorism legislation and under the 1984 Hostages Convention.

British planning on the technicalities of enforcing the laws of war appears to be less advanced. Yesterday a spokesman at the Ministry of Defence was entirely unimpressed about the possibility of war crimes trials.

At the Foreign Office, little further information was available, although it was pointed out that "at present, it is important to communicate clearly that we will not tolerate outrages against our nationals. So far this contingency has not arisen, but when it comes, we will prepare for it".

The author is a researcher in international law at Queen's College, Cambridge.

# If you have to carry the can, don't delay in picking it up

After recording dreadful figures (from stupendous "bad debts") in their most recent quarterly accounts, the high street banks have made clear that the economies necessary to keep them going must come in large part from reducing staff. All I want to know for the moment is how many members of the boards of directors - who, after all, are responsible for the disasters - are going to be sacked.

For the salaries of even, say, a dozen would make a substantial contribution to the saving down. Not long ago, an extra item began to feature regularly in the pages of that admirable magazine *Which?* (This is not a *non sequitur*, I promise you.) It records the successes achieved by the Consumer Association's advice and help service, which strives to get redress from suppliers who have provided unsatisfactory goods or services. Every month, one or two case histories are published, some of them recounting the most dreadful experiences, with not only what the sufferers paid for and did not get, but their difficulty in making the firm or organisation that was at fault give compensation, either in cash, by replacement or acceptable substitute.

A recent issue took the biscuit, without pausing to discover whether the biscuit in question was the best buy. I quote the dry, calm words of the magazine as it told the story of what happened to the family White when they went to Malta for a luxurious holiday under the auspices of Intasun. They were promised delights such as medieval banquets, Hawaiian nights, an à la carte fish restaurant and a swimming pool. Instead:

Arriving around midnight, tired and hungry, the Whites were told a meal awaited them. Yet... all that was laid before them... was a stomach-churning salad of melting cheese and sweating meat, with not a drop to drink. Retiring to their rooms, they were met by a strong smell of damp, accompanied by faking plaster, odd patches of black mould, and a rustling shower tray... the throb of disco music and the gleam of headlights and revving engines from the carpark left them tossing and turning into the small hours... stale bread greeted them at breakfast, and at each meal they had



Bernard Levin suggests a way to speed compensation payments by all those who prevaricate over liability

to search through piles of cutlery to find a clean knife and fork, while the staff just shrugged... The crunch came one lunchtime when Mr White bit into a piece of glass lurking beneath a lettuce leaf. From the collection of debris in the swimming pool, it seemed no one bothered about cleaning it. But they did paint the slide - unfortunately, Mr White found this out only when his hands stuck to the rails.

Mr White, on the family's return, complained to Intasun. The firm meandered a reply, disclaiming responsibility for the hotel staff and pussy-footing about the food. It did not offer compensation. Mr White tried again. Intasun offered a total of £40, though the holiday had cost £920. Mr White then wrote to *Which?* Personal Service.

The law of this country says that in matters of this kind there is an implied contract which demands

that what has been paid for must be of a reasonable standard. If a supermarket sells you a tin of biscuits and large rats climb out when you open it, the shop cannot simply say it did not give any specific promise that the tin would be entirely rodent-free.

Obviously, a large, experienced and indeed reputable tour operator like Intasun would know that. Yet when *Which?* on behalf of the Whites, demanded £400 compensation, it merely raised its offer from £40 to £60.

The Whites, backed by *Which?* sued the firm, and soon after the summons was served, Intasun offered £200 plus costs. The Whites accepted. They are unlikely ever again to take an Intasun holiday, and even if they do it is reasonably certain that it will not be in Malta.

There is, of course, a moral in this story. The law in these matters is clear: the firm must have known

that it was liable to pay substantial compensation. So why did it go on prevaricating in so shabby a manner, instead of doing what it would eventually be obliged to do, if necessary by order of a court?

Let us move on (another apparent *non sequitur*, but be patient) to the case of Mr John Lambert, who was injured in a motorcycle accident which was the fault of Devon county council. He was awarded damages of £1,571.282 - the highest personal-injury payment in British history. (His injuries left him tetraplegic - that is, paralysed in all four limbs.) Devon council denied liability, but the court refused to allow it that defence, and the reason for the refusal is a particularly interesting one: the council had "inexcusably" failed to comply with court orders to produce documents to Mr Lambert's lawyers which were relevant to the case. (It is, alas, worth recording

that the case was heard nine years after the accident. It is also, even more alas, worth recording the reason: Mr Lambert's first solicitors remained "inert" for five years, and so did the defendants.)

Now, I trust, you can see the connection between the bank directors, the travel firm and the injury case. The culprits are all purveyors who deny that they are liable for what they purvey, while knowing that they are. Most of us have had such experiences, and in any case a monthly reading of *Which?* will provide enough evidence of the practice. (And *Which?* probably deals with 99 cases for every one it publishes.)

What has become of taking responsibility, or even owning up? The terrible word "precedent" raises its head, then shakes it. We must not own up, because if we admit promptly that we fitted Mr and Mrs Higginbotham's bathroom geyser back to front and blew the windows out, the next time we fit a bathroom geyser upside down and blow the roof off we shall have to admit that too. Therefore we must drag out our negotiations with the Higginbothams till kingdom come or shortly after, so that when we fit a bathroom geyser inside out and blow the kitchen to pieces we might get away with it.

Insurance companies pioneered the technique; however obviously they are in the wrong, their rule is to deny liability as long as they can, in the hope, often realised, that the claimant will become exhausted, or better still die. (Provided, of course, that he does not have a life policy.)

The Institute of Economic Affairs has proposed that when trains are late or our post is not delivered, we should be compensated by, respectively, British Rail and the Post Office. This is a splendid idea; but if it takes a yard-high pile of correspondence and a court action to make a mere tour operator pay what it owes, we can hardly hope for rapid redress from these monstrous quangos.

I have a much simpler idea: anyone denying liability who is found liable should automatically have to pay thrice the compensation or damages that might otherwise be awarded.

## Don't be a wimp, Mr Waddington

Will David Waddington, the home secretary, get a standing ovation at the Tory party conference in Bournemouth next month? The question is exercising the minds of party managers charged with stage-managing the applause. After a succession of home secretaries of distinctly wet persuasion who have been given a rough ride by the hang 'em and flog 'em rank and file, Waddington at first seemed to chime with law 'n' order Tory sentiment.

His appointment last year was enthusiastically greeted by right-wingers, delighted at the first supporter of capital punishment to hold the post in nearly 30 years. Now, it is said, he has gone soft.

Waddington's decision to refer the case of the Birmingham Six back to the Court of Appeal is seen by the Tory right as merely the latest in a long line of concessions to wet liberalism - others including his refusal to authorise immediate force to end the Strangeways prison riot and his support for the bill granting entry to Britain of anything up to 250,000 people from Hong Kong. The police are less than enraptured, as delegates to the Police Federation conference in May demonstrated: at the end of his speech, they sat on their hands.

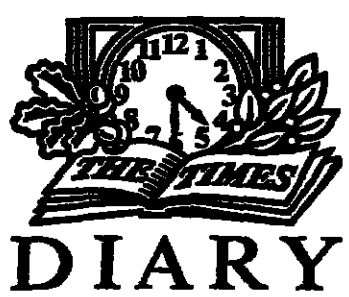
Accusing Waddington of making some colossal blunders, Tory MP Sir John Stokes says he has been taken by excessively liberal civil servants at the Home Office. "He should have got on top of them within an hour of taking the

job. He should get tough and be himself." The sentiment is shared by fellow MP Vivian Bendall. "Every time we give a home secretary who we think is going to take a firm line he is opposed by his officials, and they always win. If Mr Waddington starts to stand up for himself he will not only win a standing ovation at Bournemouth - which now seems unlikely - but he will win the respect of the people."

Help is at hand. Mike Simmonds, a dry-as-they-come free marketeer, has just joined Waddington as special adviser - a job he did previously for the arid Nicholas Ridley at the Department of Trade and Industry. If anyone can damp-proof Waddington against his civil servants it is Simmonds - who, incidentally, is all in favour of flogging. In his case, though, flogging off the prison service and the police to private enterprise.

## Back in the box

Hercules, he who strangled serpents in his cradle, breezed through the twelve labours and was renowned for his amatory prowess, has at last met his match. The mid-19th century Charles Harriot Smith was commissioned by the British Geological Survey to sculpt a 12ft statue of the hero of classical mythology in all his naked glory. But Lady Geike, wife of the Survey's director, was so distressed by the "offensively obtrusive" evidence of Hercules' gender that a mason was paid seven guineas to remove the offending parts. When Hercules went on display at the Museum of Practical



Geology in London, a fig leaf covered the indignity. Then in 1977, the museum's director, Dr Austin Woodless, decided to restore Hercules' virility, an operation possible because the offending organs had been tenderly preserved in a velvet-lined mahogany box.

Alas, Hercules is threatened once more. The restored statue was subsequently removed to an outdoor site at the British Geological Survey's headquarters in Nottingham, and modesty may have the last word, thanks to the effects of acid rain.

"Delicate carving on the stone is particularly vulnerable," says Dr Brian James of the Survey. A codpiece is being considered to protect the most delicate carving of all.

For cast read cats

Shakespeare's ability to withstand the whims of film directors will be tested in a new *Romeo and Juliet* - played by cats. One hundred and fifty of them appear in an American abridgement with voice-overs by, among others, Maggie Smith,

Robert Powell and Vanessa Redgrave. Juliet is played by a fluffy Turkish angora - a "feline Marilyn Monroe," according to the publicity - and Romeo by a smooth-haired grey. Mercutio is a three-legged Siamese. The only human in the cast is John Hurt, who plays a Venetian bagdady living among the city's cats.

"The cats were mostly strays from Brussels," says a spokesman for the film. "They weren't specially trained, just shown what to do and left on the sets." The occasional inducement helped.



"In the ballroom scene we enticed them to dance by dangling morsels of chicken on fishing rods."

But why use cats in the first place? "Why not?" says the spokesman. "Cats are good subjects for special film techniques and slow motion. And they relate to one another. There is a human feel to the film." And morsels of chicken and saucers of milk apart, they don't cost anything.

On the other hand, they are difficult to direct. The film took nearly two years to make - 350 hours of filming and 4,000 hours

of editing. After such a marathon the cats deserve a good home. Director Armando Artisto has adopted 12 of his cast, including both Romeo and Juliet.

● The runner-up prize in a competition asking for ideas on how to save water, run by drought-stricken Mid-Kent water authority, has gone to a five-year-old boy. "Stop washing children," said Thomas Stanier of Tenterden. His prize? Bubble-bath soap. "I don't think he'll appreciate it at all," says a Mid-Kent spokesman.

## Mallsoulem

Department stores are rather like museums, said Andy Warhol, and he seems to have been right. Next month the V&A is staging its first exhibition in America - not in an exhibition hall or museum, but in a shopping mall. Mind you, the South Coast Plaza Retail Center in Orange County, near Los Angeles, where the British Design 1790-1990 exhibition will be held, is not any old shopping mall. It has three hundred shops and thirty restaurants. It's very glamorous, very clean, very new, very upmarket.

"Anyway, it's quite common to exhibit in department stores. Last year we had some odds and ends on show at Harrods. The Japanese have been at it for some years. If security is adequate and the environment correct, there is no problem for the exhibits."

In a country which made the first 1954 Melba a historic monument, there shouldn't be too much of a problem for visitors either.





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## BACK TO THE AGENDA

For the past week, President Saddam Hussein has manipulated women and children as part of his strategy to get the world to change the subject. By letting a few fly to freedom after days of uncertainty, Saddam sought to switch the spotlight from his foreign minister's refusal to concede a single point to the UN secretary-general in Amman and from the inhuman suffering he has, in further defiance of international law, inflicted on foreign civilians.

The release of a small minority of the thousands still held captive in Iraq and Kuwait was prompted not by humanitarian considerations but by the calculation that, once freed, they would persuade their governments to rule out military action for the sake of the men left behind. Yesterday Mrs Thatcher declined the gambit, returning to the real matter in hand: forcing Saddam to beat an ignominious, unconditional retreat from Kuwait.

The UN resolutions were not negotiable. What he had to do, she said, had been decided: the only question was "how and when". And although this would be "a decision of anguish", Iraq's illegal holding of hostages could not be allowed to inhibit "action which we feel vital to stop a dictator". Once that had been achieved Saddam himself, and all Iraqi officials who acted on his orders to take hostages or mistreated them, would be liable to prosecution by an international tribunal.

The taking of hostages is a crime under international law. That is not a nicety to be poured over by diplomats, but a fact on which the deterrence of inhuman and unlawful conduct depends. The Geneva Conventions, drawn up with Nazi crimes fresh in memory, were designed to prevent their repetition. To invoke them against Iraqi leaders would not create new law but underline the international validity of the law that exists. The prime minister's explicit analogy with the Nuremberg trials is well-founded, as is her contention that obeying orders cannot constitute a legal defence.

The further implication is, however, that Iraq's crimes in committing aggression and holding hostages cannot be erased even if Saddam withdraws from Kuwait and releases them all without further military action. Outlaws will still be outlaws, unable to leave Iraq without liability to arrest and arraignment. The tactics Saddam has employed to delay (or prevent) international retribution, in other words, have backfired by compounding his original crime.

There are encouraging signs that Saddam's cynical playing for time has actually hardened

the coalition against him, particularly in the Arab world. Douglas Hurd's Middle Eastern tour is, if anything, designed to encourage patience among Arab leaders increasingly dedicated to a military showdown. Last Friday's meeting in Cairo by foreign ministers of 13 Arab League countries demanded not only unconditional compliance with UN resolutions but restoration of Kuwaiti assets and payment of war damages. Implicitly disowning mediation by King Hussein of Jordan or Yasser Arafat, they also insisted that the Arab League alone should take charge of any Arab peace initiatives.

Such firmness among Iraq's neighbours and potential victims sets the right tone for Sunday's summit between presidents Bush and Gorbachev in Helsinki. This meeting, at a sensitive stage in the balance between diplomacy and military action, needs to serve three purposes. Mr Bush requires Mr Gorbachev's public affirmation that they are bound together by their determination to roll back aggression. Mr Gorbachev needs to convince his own public, long accustomed to view American military involvement in the Middle East as a threat to the Soviet Union's southern flank, that the American presence in Saudi Arabia provides no grounds for suspicion. They need to narrow their differences over a possible resort to force.

Both sides have played these down. Mr Bush insists that there is "no worry that we might be apart". Mr Gorbachev that Moscow is working with, not against, the United States to prevent the outbreak of conflict and that this is a "mutual concern". But a hint of deviousness has diluted the early, unequivocal rapport between the super-powers.

Although Moscow voted for the relevant UN resolution, Soviet ships are not participating in the blockade of Iraq. Although Moscow refused formally to close its embassy in Kuwait, Soviet diplomats were withdrawn. Fidelity to "contracts" is a specious excuse for leaving Soviet military advisers in Iraq.

Saddam has consistently tried to present the conflict as one between Iraq and America. Mr Gorbachev has based his foreign policy on a global "partnership" with America. His desire to use the United Nations for that end is legitimate, but he must now ally suspicions that Moscow is sheltering behind legal arguments in order to distance itself from the US and avoid antagonising its old ally, Iraq. Helsinki will test his resolve to take partnership, if necessary, all the way, and to bring dissenters in the Soviet establishment into line.

## CLOSING THE BOXES

International confidence tricksters have learnt to exploit the innocent device of the accommodation address. Bogus business references are being used to milk the unwary of thousands of pounds. Often, it seems, Britain is the third corner in a triangle of international crime and the British contribution apparently the most innocuous, simply the forwarding of mail. Without the mail box, however, many frauds would collapse. There are legal loopholes that need to be closed.

The fraudsters' methods are not as simple as inviting people to send money to non-existent companies for goods which will never be delivered. The more subtle criminal bases himself abroad, perhaps somewhere in Africa where the regulation of business practice is lax and the means or desire to stamp out international fraud wanting. He disguises his absence from Britain by using one of the small businesses with a respectable British address that offer to send on mail for a fee.

He cannot do business without the trust of his international customers; and customers, if they were not born yesterday, like evidence of creditworthiness and general reputation before they do business. By means of bogus headed notepaper a British accommodation address can be made to look the equal of any prestigious head office of an international bank. With that and an office typewriter the fraudster is in business, writing amazing tributes to his own integrity that would bring a blush to the cheeks of a saint.

A clause in the 1920 Official Secrets Act was introduced to hamper enemy spies, who were suspected of having used accommodation addresses to forward their material to Germany during the first world war. Somewhat closing the door after the spies had bolted, all

those offering accommodation addresses were obliged by the act to record certain details of their clients and to register them with the local police, who would in turn keep a record.

Accommodation addresses have long since gone out of fashion in post-Buchan espionage circles, if they were ever in. The British police have been forgetting to exercise their powers or even that they had any. Hence many businesses offering accommodation addresses do not register. They are, in all ignorance, breaking the law. The maximum penalty was set in 1920 at £50 - and still is, which may explain why most police forces have no enthusiasm for enforcement.

A modern fine of up to £10,000 would be nearer the mark; and in cases where a large fraud had been perpetrated by the use of an unlicensed mail forwarding agency, such a penalty would not be out of proportion to the harm done. But it would be difficult to insist that forwarding agents must bear legal responsibility for the bona fides of their clients. There should, however, be a clear right for those running an accommodation address service to open mail if they become suspicious, which may require an amendment to post office regulations. With that right should come a duty not to be careless to the point of negligence, so if they failed to show sufficient care they would run the risk of damages.

The concern being expressed by the Institute of Trading Standards ought to lead to a short and simple act - and preferably not one misleadingly referring to spies and official secrets. Meanwhile there is no reason the existing archaic law should not be observed and the police not enforce it. German spies they may not believe in: con-men they have met before.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER

Schemes for instant church unity have joined the faded ideas of the past. The expiry at the weekend of the British Council of Churches was the end of many old hopes. New organisations have been created to take its place but their symbolism is different, their aims more modest. Nobody still believes in ambitious overnight solutions. From now on, it is one step at a time.

The council of churches at its wartime beginning was a brave innovation. It provided the context, if not the initiative, for several failed attempts to reconcile divisions between the Free Churches and the Church of England. But there is still no sense in the churches acting as if each of them was alone in a secular and increasingly indifferent world. Distance from each other is a luxury they cannot afford.

Great ecclesiastical institutions were not easily persuaded to combine, deep historical prejudices were not easily overcome. The merit of the new ecumenical bodies is that they will build on painfully won insights into the psychological roots of Christian disunity. Membership of a particular denomination cannot be reduced to a set of doctrines and liturgical rites but includes a profound sense of identity with a church tradition, often defined against other denominations.

Unless the walls round those separate identities can be lowered, individuals will feel moves towards church unity as an uncomfortable threat. But they are surprisingly ready to cooperate, once the sense of being pushed too far too fast has been removed. It is this willingness to work together, without com-

promising cherished customs and traditions, which the new bodies will cultivate. The aim of church unity has not been abandoned, they say, but the process has no timetable nor the ultimate goal a shape. That will be the business of another generation.

The Roman Catholic Church and some smaller churches which were outside the British Council of Churches are full members of the four new bodies - one each for Scotland, England and Wales and one for the British Isles - and this should bring them the stimulus of fresh perspectives. Churches of mainly Afro-Caribbean membership, the so-called black-led churches, will for the first time be admitted into the mainstream of British church life, which will be a step forward for community relations. The Catholic Church's international experience will for the first time be available for sharing with the more nationally based Anglican and Protestant churches: Catholics will in turn be challenged to leave their ecclesiastical ghetto.

The complex web of new relationships that has come into existence will need time and patience and a programme of re-education of the ordinary faithful. It will take longer still for the churches to adapt their internal systems of government to take these new relationships into account. Promises of high commitment were made on Saturday in London, Aberystwyth and Dunblane, and will be made next Saturday in Liverpool. But the intention to cooperate will be at odds with the old habit of "doing their own thing" for some time.

## Resolution in face of Saddam

From Dr Edward de Bono

Sir, The vehemence of his denials and the annexation gestures suggest that President Saddam Hussein is ready to withdraw from Kuwait and is sensibly preparing his negotiating position. He will expect a reduction or even cancellation of the Arab war loans, some rights in the disputed oil field, a guarantee given before the UN that the US and Israel will not launch surgical attacks on Iraq, a UN-convened international conference on the Palestine problem and possibly an enforcement of all those who have lived in Kuwait for more than five years with UN-guaranteed elections by a certain date.

There is a race between the slow squeeze of sanctions and the TV-induced erosion of US resolve. In a democracy TV is worth 20 divisions fighting for the other side because TV cannot show concepts (on which legality and rights are based) but can only show details which lead directly to mood changes, including boredom, without ever passing through rationality. Hostages are a ring through the nose of a tureen TV which can then be lead every which way.

Consider the possibility of buying time by offering to release 10 per cent of hostages every week. The US accepts 50,000 road deaths a year and 23,000 murders as the cost of doing business, because those deaths are impersonal and post hoc. Yet rationality says that the best way of saving existing and future hostages is to write them off as the cost of doing the business of war - as were the victims of Coventry, Dresden and Hiroshima. But TV is about the water logic of perception, not the rock logic of rationality.

Why negotiate with a burglar? He has the power to destroy some of your house as he goes down with guns blazing - if there is no place for him to go. It is the price the world must pay for the ad hoc response to this sort of crisis, for free-market arms sales and for failing to design well in advance really powerful sanction methods.

Yours sincerely,  
EDWARD DE BONO,  
L2 Albany,  
Piccadilly, W1.

## Mortgage strategy

From Mr R. Goldberg

Sir, Dr D. H. Sharp (August 22) seems intent on trying to repeal the laws of the market as far as mortgages are concerned. If lenders are forced to lend at fixed rates of interest, they will demand the right to call in their loans at short notice, to protect themselves against a rise in the cost of money. The result will be that borrowers will be compelled to renew their loans at higher rates of interest.

If lenders are not allowed to call in their loans in this way, then lending will dry up. The reason is simple: investors will not put their money with building societies or banks at long-term fixed rates in an inflationary situation. They will invest in other countries where returns to investors reflect market conditions.

The baleful effects on the housing market of 70 years or so of rent control or regulation should have shown us the dangers of trying to treat the symptoms rather than the disease.

Yours faithfully,  
R. GOLDBERG,  
6 Malmaison Close,  
Beckenham, Kent.

## Advice on health

From the Chief Executive of the Health Education Authority

Sir, Your correspondent Ralph Irwin-Brown (August 22) knows of no statistics to back up the statement by my colleague Donald Reid (August 14) that smoking is the principal cause of leg amputations to prevent gangrene in Britain.

In 1986 there were 5,780 amputations of which 3,699 were due to peripheral vascular disease; 90 per cent of such cases (i.e. 57 per cent of all amputations) are considered, by recent authoritative medical research, to be due to smoking. This is another graphic illustration of the human misery caused by smoking.

Yours faithfully,  
SPENCER HAGARD,  
Chief Executive,  
Health Education Authority,  
Hamilton House,  
Mabledon Place, WC1,  
August 30.

## EC and professions

From Mr M. R. Johnson

Sir, Mrs Charlotte Horsfield (August 20) expresses concern over the loss of sovereignty in respect of control over professional qualifications brought about by the EC Council of Ministers' directive 89/48/EEC.

Far from removing standards, this directive is intended not only to maintain them but also to make them more widely acceptable. Mrs Horsfield omits to mention that the directive provides for an adaptation period or aptitude test, by which means the host member state can "assess the ability of the migrant" professional.

Had the system of approval and inspection of professional qualifications been adopted earlier, as for example is laid down in a Council of Ministers' resolution of June 19, 1990 (90/C 206/01) in respect of the prevention of accidents causing marine pollution, then perhaps such catastrophes as the

## Conservatism in social context

From Mr Francis Davis

Sir, Raymond Plant (article, August 28) interestingly draws out the elements in contemporary Conservative thinking that suggest a return to a community-based approach to understanding society rather than an individualised one. And yet surprisingly for him he does not emphasise just how central theology is to this new drift in Conservative thinking.

During what might be termed "the decade of the new right" conservatives on both sides of the Atlantic, but Mrs Thatcher in particular, made enormous attempts to develop a theology to justify their free-market position. Robin Harris, now at the Downing Street Policy Unit, whose winter address to the Centre for Policy Studies Professor Plant mentions, has no less of a theological world view. In that address Harris traced the Conservative commitment to "community" into Roman Catholic social thought and argued, for example, against monastic equality as an aberration in theology and a challenge to the market.

As such he may have failed to acknowledge central themes of this (own) Roman Catholic tradition, for example Catholicism's total commitment to social justice, but nevertheless he firmly demonstrates just how desperate Conservatism is to give itself a "Christian" foundation.

Consequently, a task reappears for the left on both sides of the Atlantic. In short, a theology of oppression (or oppressive understanding of authentic theology) can only truly be challenged by a relevant theology of liberation. In recent times this is a task that the mainstream of the British left has almost completely neglected. Yours sincerely,  
FRANCIS DAVIS  
(Parish community worker),  
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church,  
48 Bogle Street,  
Southampton, Hampshire,  
August 31.

## Plight of elephants

From Dr Simon Lyster

Sir, I was surprised to read William Travers's letter (August 27) criticising WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) for not being in favour of a ban on the ivory trade when the issue was debated at the Cites (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) conference last October.

I represented WWF at the Cites conference, and let me assure Mr Travers and all *Times* readers that WWF strongly supported an ivory trade ban, and we have been working hard around the world since October to try to make the ban as watertight and effective as possible.

I think the confusion has arisen because there was some disagreement among conservationists on the best means of achieving a ban (several means are possible under Cites procedures), but there was no disagreement on the need for a ban itself.

Mr Travers also criticised WWF for only spending £1.5 million on elephant projects in Africa over the last 12 months when we had £20 million at our disposal. I wish

## Cheap church repairs

From Mr Martin Caroe

Sir, When money is short it is often possible to repair church buildings cheaply and sensibly, as opposed to cheaply, destructively and disastrously. Despite the criticism of the Archdeacon of Exeter (August 24) it is clear that Mr Jardin (report, August 18) was referring to the latter. Architects working on old buildings only too often see examples of repair carried out in good faith which due to technical innocence or lack of care will accelerate the decay of original structure.

That English Heritage have by August run out of money to assist in the repair of church buildings is profoundly disturbing. Uncertainties over funding will make it even harder to advise parishes on how to proceed. The cause is continuing under-funding in the light of rising tender prices combined with a continuing rise in applications.

The remedy is surely to apply countryside pressure from the Church and amenity societies for additional funds, rather than to revert to the destructive methods of repair against which diocesan advisory committees, as well as amenity societies, have been warning for decades.

Yours sincerely,  
MARTIN CAROE,  
Caroe & Martin (architects),  
1 Greenland Place, NW1.

## Off-course betting

From the Chairman of the National Council on Gambling

Sir, Your report about research into risk-taking and predictability in off-course betting (August 21) could encourage the unfortunate notion that there really is a way "to beat the bookies". Betting, within limits, can be an acceptable form of entertainment. However, since the bookmakers' profits, the racing levy and government duty each take a portion of the total money staked, overall most punters must inevitably lose.

A particular punter's chances of winning money, of course, are improved by applying "the best qualitative and quantitative information". However, the efficacy of this is easily exaggerated and undue emphasis on it is likely to stimulate gambling. Since this will increase bookmakers' profitability, it is not surprising that they "will not mind this (the reported research) being made public".

The kind of behaviour which your report is frequently found in "compulsive" betting with serious disturbance to individuals, families and the community. Yours faithfully,  
E. MORAN, Chairman,  
The National Council on Gambling,  
26 Bedford Square, WC1,  
August 23.

## period, and Britain has 81 seats.

Before a directive comes into effect an opinion on the proposed law has to be sought from the European Parliament. It then passes on to the Economic and Social Committee, which is composed of 189 representatives of such bodies as trade unions, employers' associations and consumer groups throughout the Community.

The proposal then goes to the 12-member Council of Ministers who decide whether it should become Community policy, or law. Unlike the Commissioners, these ministers act as representatives of their own country. Each one weighs up the proposal and, in the case of more important matters, they all have to agree before it can become law.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL R. JOHNSON,  
Lavender Cottage,  
Ringle Cross,  
Uckfield, East Sussex.

## Echoes from the Guinness trial

From Mr Robert Breckman

Sir, The irony of the Guinness scam is that whilst Saunders *et al* are judged guilty, the shareholders have benefited by the inclusion of Distillers into the value of their shares. The question that should be asked is whether the Distillers takeover should be rendered null and void?

Shareholders are now holding equity in a company which has been artificially "boosted". Why should they not be subject to some sort of penalty, for example, recalculating the value of their shares without the Distillers input?

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BRECKMAN,  
Breckman & Company  
(Chartered accountants),  
49 South Molton Street, W1,  
August 30.

From Mr Peter R. Davies

Sir, Mr Ashley Mote (August 30) is developing a dangerous theme. He suggests that the wrongful use of shareholders' money is not theft from the company if the shareholders ultimately derive a benefit.

If my television set is stolen my insurance company buy me a new one. Should the thief, if caught, be set free?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER R. DAVIES,  
One Tree Hill,  
Chobham, Surrey,  
August 30.

From Mr Charles Quaint

Sir, Your leading article, "Shudder in the City" (August 29), says that "community service orders... lack deterrent impact" (my italics). After 25 years as a magistrate, and for much of that time a deputy or chairman of juvenile and later adult benches, I am sure that I express a widespread view of community service orders as no alternative whatsoever to the prison sentences they were originally introduced to replace or supplement. In virtually all of them there is no element of punishment, no deterrent effect, no element of public shame. Picking up cigarette ends outside old age pensioners' bungalows is no way of dealing with young hoodlums, vandals, and burglars.

Would it not be better to reintroduce hard labour on social tasks, in the full glare of publicity, for such as the lesser City criminals? Surely there are sufficient slag heaps, derelict areas, quarry tips and other eyesores to keep them busy for many a long year, with pick and shovel, barrow and sweat. Hard labour, without prison, in camps?

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES QUAIN,  
Silverwood, Gwynnynydd,  
Mold, Clwyd,  
August 29.

From Mr C. H. Rolph

Sir, Many will agree with Judge King-Hamilton's letter (August 30) claiming the Guinness verdict as "another demonstration of the ability of an ordinary jury to understand a long, complex fraud trial".

Many others, including me, will see them as demonstrating that if you fill the newspapers with a big story for many months preceding such a trial, giving photographs, biographies, and fond family details, no jury will dream of saying Not Guilty. Innocent or guilty, the accused men haven't a chance.

Yours sincerely,  
C. H. ROLPH,  
33 Hitherwood,  
Craneleigh, Surrey,  
August 30.

From Mr George F. Smith

Sir, With the exception of the Royal Mint, perhaps all fit and proper persons could now resolve to earn money rather than make it.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE F. SMITH,  
Aysgarth Agencies,  
23 Mount Road,  
Higher Bebbington,  
Wirral, Merseyside,  
August 30.

## Gnawed netting

From Mr Nicholas Baker, MP for Dorset North (Conservative)

Sir, My family and I have positioned our cricket net for a few years in the walled garden of our Dorset home. Last year, to my horror, I found well over a dozen holes cut into the netting at heights between three inches and two feet from the ground.

Many members of the animal kingdom incurred our suspicion. I even wondered if a political opponent or dissatisfied constituent had savaged netting made of nylon and strong enough to withstand fast bowling.

This year I turned the netting upside down so that the holed section runs along the top and hoped that last year's predator would not reappear. The answer to the mystery came last weekend. We found a new hole cut in the bottom of the netting and on the other side a full-grown rabbit which had died enmeshed after a desperate effort to get through the netting.

There are plenty of vegetable enticements in the walled garden. Why should rabbits be so keen to damage our cricket net?

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS BAKER,  
House of Commons,  
August 28.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.





COURT CIRCULAR

**BALMORAL CASTLE**  
September 2: Divine Service was held in the Lady Chapel of the castle this morning. The Reverend August Morrison preached the sermon.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
September 1: The Lady Angela, who has succeeded Lady Fermanagh as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, was in residence.

Marriages

**Mr A.R. Leeming** and **Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon** Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother attended the marriage on Saturday in the Chapel of St Michael and All Angels, Glamis Castle, Angus, of Mr Antony Leeming, eldest son of the late Mr Richard Leeming and of Mrs Leeming, of Skirgill Park, Perth, Cumbria, to Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, eldest daughter of the late Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne and of Mary Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne, of Glamis Castle. The Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane officiated, assisted by Father Thomas Walsh.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, was attended by Christian Boyle, the Hon Miranda Vane, Lord Glamis, the Hon John Fergus Bowes Lyon and Archie Leeming. Mr Nicholas Leeming was best man.

A reception was held in Glamis Castle.

**Mr J.W. Guesdon** and **Miss R.G. Elliott**  
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Edward's, Sutton Park, Guildford, of Mr John Guesdon, only son of Sir Richard Guesdon, of Wadhurst, East Sussex, and of Mrs John Guesdon, of Somerset West, South Africa, to Miss Rosemary Elliott, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Gordon Elliott, of Bowyer's Hill House, near Guildford. Father John Bartram and Prebendary Gerard Irvine officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Laura Watson. Mr Richard Wilson was best man.

**Mr H.H. Pickering** and **Miss A.A. Shaddock**  
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Bartholomew's, Oxford, Kent, of Mr Hugo Hutchinson Pickering, elder son of Sir Edward and Lady Pickering, of Norton St Philip, near Bath, to Miss Elizabeth Anne Shaddock, only daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Roy Shaddock, of Oxford. The Rev D. Towne officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Charlotte Osofofi. Mr Tobias Chetwynd-Talbot was best man.

Birthdays today

Mr Geoff Arnold, cricketer, 46; Air Marshal Sir Erik Bennett, 62; Dr Clare Bursall, educationist, 59; Miss Pauline Collins, actress, 50; Lord Craigton, 60; Lord Emsay, 78; Air Marshal Sir Gerald Gibbs, 94; Admiral Sir David Hallifax, 63; the Rev A.H.H. Harbottle, Chaplain to the Queen, 65; Professor Alison Lunn, writer, 64; Miss Susan Milne, flautist, 42; the Right Rev V.S. Nicholls, former Bishop of Sodor and Man, 73; Sir Ronald Pearson, metallurgist, 83; Sir Martin Russell, diplomat, 61; M. Gaston Thorne, former Prime Minister of Luxembourg, 62; Miss Rachel Welch, actress, 50.

Anniversaries

**DEATHS:** Richard Telford, actor and writer, London 1588; Sir Edward Coke, jurist, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, 1634; Oliver Cromwell, Protector, 1658-59, London 1658; Sir John Reade, civil engineer, Bengo, Hertford, 1874.

In England in 1752 the Gregorian calendar replaced the Julian, whereby this day became September 14. Britain recognized the independence of the USA by the Treaty of Versailles, 1783. Britain and France declared war on Germany, 1939. The Allied invasion of Italy began 1943. The US Viking II touched down on Mars, 1976.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr C.M. Breeze** and **Miss S.M. Parkinson**  
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr D.R. Breeze, of Woodley, Berkshire, and of Mrs J.R. Ford, of Wargrave, Berkshire, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Parkinson, of Tiverton, Devon.

**Mr C.D.G. Fenwick** and **Miss E.M. Murphy**  
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Fenwick, of Hatfield, and of Mrs E.M. Murphy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Murphy, of Centerville, Cape Cod, Mass, USA.

**Mr A. Freeman** and **Miss C.L. Durrer**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Freeman, of Cwmbran, Gwent, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Maurice Durrer, of Rolvenden, Lyme, Kent.

**Mr N.J. Harris** and **Miss J.M. Plunkett Dillow**  
The engagement is announced between Nigel, elder son of Mrs C.M. Harris, of Bradley Stoke, Bristol, and the late Dr J.M. Harris, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Plunkett Dillow, of Glenshiel, Lower Churchtown Road, Dublin.

**Mr A.C. Moxley** and **Miss A.N. Metzner**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr Martin Moxley, of Wootton Bassett, Somerset, and Mrs Marina Metzner, of Chitterne, Wiltshire, and Alison Nancy, daughter of Mr Jeffrey Metzner, of New York City, and Mrs Norman Green of Reading, Connecticut.

**Mr A.A. Robinson** and **Miss F. Abbagnano**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Colonel and Mrs William Robinson, and Fabrizia, elder daughter of Signor Carlo Abbagnano and Signora Pierette Lanni.

**Captain W.K. Shipton**  
The engagement is announced between William Shipton, The Royal Green Jackets, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.K. Shipton, of Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent, and Melissa, only daughter of Mr F.C. Sear, of Boxmoor, Hertfordshire.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT HOLMES à COURT

Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian financier and chairman of Bell Group International from 1982 to 1988, died of a heart attack aged 53 at his country home in Western Australia yesterday. He was born on July 27, 1937.



Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian financier and chairman of Bell Group International from 1982 to 1988, died of a heart attack aged 53 at his country home in Western Australia yesterday.

THE business career of Robert Holmes à Court first made an impression on the public in Britain when in 1982 he ousted Lord Grade as head of the debt-ridden entertainment group Associated Communications Corporation and made it profitable. At the height of his power and influence he was Australia's richest man with the reputation of being an unconventional corporate raider. His \$A1.3 billion-dollar Bell Group empire, originally built on the foundations of an unpromising Australian road haulage and engineering company, came to embrace a multitude of concerns ranging from heavy industry to entertainment. His fall from these heights in the stock market crash of October 1987 was sudden and he lost control of Bell Group to Mr Alan Bond and, at the same time, about a billion Australian dollars of his corporate wealth. He might have seemed finished, but he fought back strongly to rebuild his position. Indeed, Australia's *Business Review Weekly* had recently put his personal net value at \$A700 million.

Michael Robert Hamilton Holmes à Court was born the son of Peter Holmes à Court, in Michaelhouse, Natal, South Africa. His paternal grandfather was the Hon Henry Holmes à Court, a brother of the third and fourth Barons Heytesbury. Robert Holmes à Court had his early education at the Natal public school, Michaelhouse, but in the 1950s he moved with his family to New Zealand where he read agricultural science at Massey University. He soon decided that farming was no life for him and, in his mid twenties, enrolled at the University of Western Australia, Perth, to read law. Australia was to be his adoptive country.

His entrepreneurial flair first showed itself at university. Holmes à Court had founded a university flying club. When a student crashed a plane he bought the wreckage for a few hundred dollars and then made himself a sizeable profit by dismantling the plane and selling off individually the engine, instruments and radio.

After graduating he built a solid

reputation as an able commercial lawyer, but he soon found that acting as a legal adviser to businessmen was not enough to satisfy him. He had to participate. His chance to do so came in 1970 in the shape of a near-insolvent textiles company, West Australian Worsted and Woollen Mills. Holmes à Court, who had been acting as the company's legal adviser, purchased a 21 per cent stake and, by persuading the state government to write off most of its loans, gave himself the time to turn the company around by a programme of expansion and diversification. Three years later the textiles company acquired a large stake in an ailing road haulage and civil engineering company, Bell Brothers Holdings. Holmes à Court proceeded to turn it into his main corporate vehicle, using it to diversify into a wide range of industries, from oil and minerals to hotels, television and newspapers.

Holmes à Court acquired a sou- briquet in Australian business circles which he did not much care for - "the profitable loser". This referred to his habit of making a bid for a company then, when his own actions had aroused interest in the company so that others began to counter-bid, moving his own strategy into a lower gear. This meant that he was often beaten but usually managed to withdraw with a large profit on the shares he had already bought.

Holmes à Court's acquisition of Associated Communications Corporation in 1982 fascinated the City. The boyish-looking Australian looked no match for the worldly-wise, flamboyant Lord Grade who at 75 had behind him decades of experience. But Grade had had his misfortunes in the previous two or three years - most notably the box office disaster *Raise the Titanic* - and was more vulnerable than he realised. By early 1982 Holmes à Court had mounted a

\$36m takeover and Grade was eventually ousted. Robert Holmes à Court's interest in the media at one time came close to embracing *The Times*. When in late 1970s the Thomson Organisation announced that it was to cease publishing *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, Holmes à Court showed an interest. The then editor William Rees-Mogg was deeply impressed by Holmes à Court, whose approach to business he described as architectural: you design a structure, and if the design does not make sense you simply walk away from the drawing board.

The Associated Communications Corporation takeover was his most spectacular to that date and fired public imagination in this country through the contrasting nature of the contestants involved. In the following year an even more ambitious bid, to take over the Australian mining giant BHP failed, though the manner of Holmes à Court's setting about it, from the base of a little-known tractor company he had just bought, enhanced his reputation as a student of the unorthodox in matters of corporate dealing. His almost waggish looking features contributed to an image of endearing humanity which was very far from being the norm in the tough ranks of Australian entrepreneurs at that time.

The worldwide stock market crash of October 1987 altered Holmes à Court's prospects with startling suddenness. He lost control of Bell Group and resigned as its chairman in the following year when Alan Bond, its new owner, sold off some of its major assets.

Though he never regained his pre-eminent position in big business, Holmes à Court was fighting hard to retrieve his fortunes at the time of his death. In Australia he had won control of Sherwin Pastoral, the country's largest cattle ranching company, while among widely publicised interests in this country were a number of major West End theatres and a holding in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Theatre Company. He had large rural property holdings and owned the Western Australian racehorse business Heytesbury Stud (whose name referred to his links with the Buckinghamshire family) where he died.

He leaves his widow, Janet, three sons and a daughter.

ROBERT MACDONALD-HALL



Torch, the Allied landings in North Africa. By 1944, he was in Ceylon, where, as he recalled, elephants were used to retrieve Corsair fighters when

Robert MacDonald-Hall, wartime naval aviator and president of the AIM Group plc, died aged 75 in a helicopter crash near Felsted on August 31. He was born on August 19, 1915.

ROBERT MacDonald-Hall, Sam as he was always known to his friends, had an early determination to fly. But he had to work hard to gain the necessary educational qualifications before he joined the Royal Air Force at the age of 21. After the Inskip Award of 1937 brought the Fleet Air Arm under the control of the Admiralty, he transferred to the Royal Navy.

During his flying training, he had a narrow escape when his aircraft hit power cables over the Firth of Tay and crashed into the water. His

early naval flying was in Walrus flying boats, which were catapulted from warships as reconnaissance aircraft, and he was in the cruiser HMS York at the outbreak of the second world war. He was much influenced by Caspar John, who subsequently became the First Sea Lord and a lifelong friend.

During the Norwegian campaign MacDonald-Hall flew reconnaissance patrols in the fjords in the Mediterranean he was in York when she was sunk in harbour in Crete by Stukas. Flying Fulmar fighters from HMS Eagle in operation Mandible in the Dodecanese, MacDonald-Hall shared in shooting down a Heinkel He 111. Later he commanded 801 Squadron, flying Seafires from HMS Furious in Operation

they had run off the runway. After the war he left the navy and joined the Control Commission in Germany where he restarted the Customs Control Maritime Unit at Eckenforde. He became a merchant trader in 1946 doing business in commodities throughout the Middle East for the next 25 years.

By 1971, wanting to spend more time in the United Kingdom, he reverted to his original aviation interest by purchasing a company specialising in sound proofing and interior furnishings of helicopters and other aircraft. From this new beginning, he built up and led a group of companies which went public in 1982 as AIM Group plc. Aircraft Interior Manufacturers specialises in total fitting out of the interior of

aircraft from private executive jets to Concorde. Business expanded with overseas clients, especially in the USA. Sam MacDonald-Hall flew the company helicopter regularly for the last 18 years on business trips. He became much concerned with the safety of helicopter flying through the Helicopter Advisory Council. He was also a trustee of the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

He had a long association with the Patten Makers' Company of which he was twice master. He had a passion for restoration and driving classic vintage cars and won awards at international rallies. He also managed a shoot at Castle Hill and was a keen salmon fisherman.

He leaves his widow, Helen, and two sons.

GEORGE BOYD

George Boyd, the trainer who dominated Scottish racing in the immediate post-war years, died on September 1 at the age of 83. He was born in 1907.

WITHIN only 10 years of taking out a licence in 1947, George Boyd had saddled more than 50 winners each at Ayr and Hamilton Park and had risen to become the leading trainer at both courses, and also at Edinburgh. But the distinction for which he will surely be remembered is that of being the only trainer ever to have sent out a Two Thousand Guineas winner from Scotland.

This was Rockavon, in 1961, when the Newmarket crowd, with the notable exception of the bookmaking fraternity, were virtually silent as this unfancied colt at 66-1 and 105-1 on the tote, sailed home clear of another outsider, Prince Tudor, also at 66-1. It was a victory given added piquancy because Rockavon had not impressed in the paddock beforehand, giving rise to at least one weighty opinion that his presence, all the way from Scotland, was a "waste of time and money". Ironically, however, Boyd was not present to savour his success. He was sitting in aircraft, fog-bound at Glasgow airport.

George Henderson Boyd was the son of J. N. Boyd, also a trainer. In his late twenties, he became assistant at the family stables, Tilton House, West Barns, Donbar, East Lothian. His elder brother, Alec, had taken the licence on the death of their father in 1936. During the war, Boyd served with the RAF. Then, in 1947, when his brother moved to Middleham, he took over at Tilton House.

His first important success came in the following year when Pappetea won the Northumberland Plate, a race which Boyd subsequently captured again with New Brig (1960) and Capriana (1965). His other big race victories included those of Barn Park in the 1951 Lincolnshire Handicap, Rhexus in the 1959 Cambridgehire and Milesius in the 1966 Eire Gold Cup.

His best season was 1957 with 59 races won. In 1969, Boyd retired and handed over to his nephew, Thomas Craig, his head lad, who continues to run Tilton House. He never married.

BERNARD WEX

THE obituary of Bernard Wex (August 14) does not give the emphasis deserved to the importance of his work as chairman of the committee to inquire into the collapse of the Emley Moor television mast. Pinstaking research established the cause of collapse of this 1,265ft tall mast, and enabled the Independent Broadcasting Authority, with the committee's assistance, to take remedial action to ensure the safety of two similar structures.

School announcements

**Belmont Abbey School**  
The Michaelmas Term at Belmont Abbey School begins today with Solemn Mass. New boys arrived on Sunday, September 2. Colin Iles is Head of School. Half-term will be from Friday, October 19, to Sunday, October 28. The Douai match will be played on Dies Memorialis, Wednesday, November 21. The school play, *Wangle in the Upper Quad*, KCMG, CBE. This quadrangle is now to be called the Hooper Quadrangle. Sarah Pickard is Head of School and Andrew Egan and Steven Odell are her Deputies. Andrew Egan is Captain of Rugby. The Old Decanian Games Day is on September 8. Carlo Curley will be an Organ Recital in Chapel during the term. The School's Open Day will be on October 6 and the Choral Course for Preparatory Schools will be on October 16 and 18. The Choral Society will be in the Privy Pump Room on December 2, and the Carol Services will be in Chapel on December 13 and 14. Term ends on December 15.

**Cobham Hall**  
The Autumn term begins today. Suzanne Tittle continues as Guardian. The Carol service will be held at the school on Saturday, December 8, and term ends on December 9.

**Dean Close School**  
The Autumn Term begins today with the unveiling of the new Sundial in the Upper Quad, designed by Sir Leonard Hooper, KCMG, CBE. This quadrangle is now to be called the Hooper Quadrangle. Sarah Pickard is Head of School and Andrew Egan and Steven Odell are her Deputies. Andrew Egan is Captain of Rugby. The Old Decanian Games Day is on September 8. Carlo Curley will be an Organ Recital in Chapel during the term. The School's Open Day will be on October 6 and the Choral Course for Preparatory Schools will be on October 16 and 18. The Choral Society will be in the Privy Pump Room on December 2, and the Carol Services will be in Chapel on December 13 and 14. Term ends on December 15.

**Felixstowe College**  
The Autumn Term begins at Felixstowe College today. The Head Girls are Emma Steel and Rebecca Crowe. The new Junior School begins tomorrow. The Old Girls Association AGM and hockey match will be held on Sunday, September 16, at the College. Sixth Form Linguists attend an International Youth Conference at Hasselt, Belgium, from October 14-20, and the Hockey Tour to Brussels takes place from October 19-22. Sixth Form Entrance and Scholarship Examinations are on November 9-10. The School Play *The Pearl* will be performed on December 7-8, and term ends on December 15.

**Forest School**  
The Michaelmas term begins today at Forest School. Mrs Carol Daly is the new Headmistress of Forest Girls' School. There will be a reunion, on September 16, for Old Foresters who left School between 1955 and 1966. Any Old Forester who has not received details should contact the Warden's secretary. The Old Foresters Dinner will take place, on October 12. Term will end on December 8, with the 124th Annual Shakespeare Play.

**Gresham's School**  
Michaelmas Term began on Sunday, September 2, with 495 pupils in the Senior School. D.C. Hamill has been appointed Housemaster of Woodlands. N.G. Dovey will take up his appointment as Head of Economics in January and G.B. Worral will resume his duties as Master in Charge of Rugby. Miss H. Haines joins the English Department and Miss Angela Knights joins the Home Economics Department. The Cairns Centre opened on Speech Day and will be in full use, as will the new Theatre Workshop. Miss Philippa Lawrence will be Art in Residence. The Old Greshamian Weekend is December 8/9. Term ends on Wednesday, December 12.

**Haberghasth's Aske's School for Girls**  
The Governors have appointed Mrs P.A. Penney, BA Hons (Bristol), as Head Mistress from August 1991, in succession to Mrs S. Whitshire BSc (Econ) Hons, Lond, who is retiring. Mrs Penney is at present Head Mistress of Putney High School (GPDS).

**Haileybury and Imperial Service College**  
Christmas term at Haileybury begins today with 650 on the roll. 555 boys and 95 Sixth Form girls. The Head of School is J.W.B. Rhodes-James (Thames Valley), the Second Head of School is the Hon J.P.C. Treigra (Thames Valley) and the Third Head of School is Anna Wolff (Allegheny). The Captain of Rugby Football is G.P.D. Neuff (Trevelyan). Mrs P. Crook, Mr S.N. Curran, Dr M.F. Wall and Mr T. Woffenden have joined the staff.

**Haileybury and Imperial Service College**  
Monk has succeeded Mr D.A.E. Hunt as Headmaster of Trevelyan. The Fourth Annual Memorial Lecture will be delivered by the Rt Hon David Owen MP, and the Rt Hon Lord Treigra will address the Political Society. Productions will include *Death of a Salesman*, *The Winslow Boy*, *Catch 22*, *Blood Wedding* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. The Carol Services are on December 9 and 16. Term ends on Sunday, December 16. Up to six Sixth Form School to be of value up to half fees, which can be increased by bursaries in cases of need, are offered to boys or girls entering the school in September 1991. The examination will be held at Haileybury on November 15/16, 1990. Full particulars from The Registrar, Haileybury, Hemel Hempstead, SG13 7NU. Tel 0992 463353.

**Harrow School**  
Winter Term at Harrow begins today with 770 pupils in the school. Mr J.J. Buzza and Mr R.D. Rees have joined the teaching staff. Mr P.J. Bieman has rejoined the staff after an exchange at King's College, New Zealand. J.A.E. Rous, Scholar, Elmfield is head of school, and W.H.L. Davies captain of rugby. The Goose Match will be played on September 9. The Staffroom Lecture will be delivered by the Rev Noel Proctor on September 25 and the Strangford Lecture by Dr David Drewry on October 18. The Rattagan Society's production of *Guys and Dolls* will be on November 29 and 30 and December 1. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will be present at the 50th Churchill Sirs industrial visit on November 29 and 30. Lady Soames will be the guest of honour. Tickets are now only available in the balcony and are obtainable in writing from Mr E.P. Balcombe at the school. The Bishop of London will hold a Confirmation on December 2. The hall term exam will extend from Sunday, October 21 to Sunday, October 28 and term ends on December 13.

**Malvern College**  
The Autumn Term begins today. R. Elias is Senior Chapel Prefect. An appeal was launched by the Chairman of the College Council at Commemoration Mr June and is designed to fund a new Technology Centre and the improvement of other academic and sporting facilities. This term's industrial visit by members of the Upper Sixth takes place on October 9 and 10, and is hosted by Guinness Brewing Worldwide.

**The School Play is The Government Inspector**  
by Nikolai Gogol and will be performed in a joint production with Ellerslie on October 17, 18 and 19, in the Festival Theatre. The Old Dinner will be held in Big School on Saturday, November 10. There will be a Christmas Concert in Big School at 7.30 pm on Saturday, December 8, and the Advent Carol Service for parents and friends from the town will be held at 8.00 pm on Wednesday, December 12. Term ends on December 15.

**Oakham School**  
Winter Term begins today, Monday, September 3. Mr David Smith becomes Housemaster of Rushbrookes, Dr John Byrne, Housemaster of Chapmans, Mr Ian Harris, Housemaster of Johnsons and Mr Rod Smith Warden of College House. Head of English is Mr Ian Robson. Mr John Sarmiento is Head of Art and Lamm McCormick is Head Boy. Academic Scholarship Examinations for entry into the 6th Form will be held on October 29, 30 and 31. Auditions and interviews for 6th Form Scholarships in Music and Art & Design on November 13, and 6th form entry examinations on November 14. The main drama productions of the term will be *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Bugsy Malone*. The Headmaster, Mr Graham Smallbone, will rehearse and conduct a performance of Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, November 4, in aid of LOROS (Hospice Association); those who wish to participate should contact Mr R.B. Smith at Oakham School. The Choral Society and Orchestra present Haydn's *Creation* on December 2. Guest Night is on November 16. Term ends after the Carol Service for Parents on December 8.

**Priest's Field School, Godalming**  
Term starts on September 5, with Sarah Johnston as Head Girl and Amy Lam as Deputy. The Business Skills Centre is now open. The Parents/Staff Association AGM and chess and wine party will be on Sunday, September 30. Old Girls' Day will be on May 18, 1991. Term will end on December 12, with a Carol Service in Charterhouse Chapel at 2.00 pm.

**Repton School**  
Michaelmas Term at Repton School begins today. Peter Partington (Cross) is Head Prefect and Charles Divall (Orchard) is Captain of Football. Old Reptonian Day is on Saturday, September 22. There will be a performance of *The*

*Dream of Gerontius* in Pears School on December 1, and at Abbot Bromley on December 2. Term ends on December 15.

**St Dunstan's College**  
Michaelmas term begins on September 4, and ends on September 18, guest being from October 20 to 28. J.A.G. Shaw is Head of School and T.R.H. Jenkins is Captain of Rugby Football.

Prize Giving is on September 22, when the guest of honour will be Mr Michael McCrory, Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The Music Society will be giving a concert at St Peter's, Sreatham, on November 10. The Preparatory Department's Christmas Concert will be on December 5, and the Festival of Lessons and Carols will be on December 17. For those interested in entering their sons at the College, there will be an Open Afternoon on Saturday, September 29, from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm.

**St Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware**  
Michaelmas Term begins today and ends on December 9. Half Term is from October 20-28. D.C. Prescott (Poynter) is Head Boy and Alessandra Pitarantoro is Head Girl. The Poynter is Head of the House. Deputies are M. Lavagno (Talbot) and Helen Murton (Supton). Captain of Rugby is B.A. Colunga (Douglas). Captain of Hockey is Ondine Sinfield (Poynter).

Mrs J. Neal, Mr K.J. Corrigan and Mr K. Hall take up their appointments as Housemasters of Douglass, Housemaster of Pole and Housemaster of Poynter, respectively. The annual Carol Services will be on December 8.

The 750th anniversary of the death of St Edmund will be celebrated at Westminster Cathedral on Friday, November 16. Our President and Patron, Cardinal Basil Hume, will preach and celebrate Solemn High Mass at 11 am. A Pilgrimage to Poissy from Saturday, October 24, is being organised. Further details of both events are available from the College.

**St Edward's School, Oxford**  
Term begins today, Monday, September 3. Christian Seymour is Head of School. Exam is

October 19-28. Commemoration is Saturday, November 24 (Commemoration Concert, Friday, November 23). The School Play is *Heartbreak House* and it will be performed on December 6, 7 and 8. Term ends on Friday, December 14.

**Seelberg School, Cumbria**  
The Michaelmas Term begins on Tuesday, September 4, 1990. The Head of School is Nicholas S.H. Palmer (Males School). The Hart House Centenary celebrations take place on Friday, October 19. Old Seelbergian Day will be held on Saturday, October 20. The Seelbergian Memorial Sevens Tournament takes place on Wednesday, December 5.

The following have gained awards to the School from September 1990:

Academic Scholarships: S.K. Gardner (Glenavon House, Harrogate); J.J. Laws (Crestbrook House, G.B. Walker (Crestbrook House and Seelberg School); R. Rickin (Kingsmead School, Hayle); R. Raper (Crestbrook House); R. Edwards (Crestbrook House); A. Thompson (Crestbrook House); P.S. Dackworth (Seelberg School); Music Scholarships: D.R. Brenner (Chorister School, Durham); P.S. Bagley (Crestbrook House); B.J. Edwards (Crestbrook House); Music Exhibitions: A.E. Sterne (Crestbrook House); T.G. Wright (Ayrath School); Arts Awards: P.D. Renison (Males School); J.K. Ryding (Males School); 6th Form Award: J.B. Johnson (Ayrath School, Carlisle); Crestbrook Award: G.B. Walker (Crestbrook House, Harrogate) (Werneth Prep School, Oldham).

**Stonor School**  
The Autumn Term at Stonor School begins today. Beth Gladwin is Head Girl. The Independent Schools' One Day Festival will be on September 9. There will be a Thanksgiving Service for Margaret Currow in Edington Church at 2.00 pm on October 12, and the Carol Service will be in Bath Abbey, at 11.30 am on December 14.

**Trevor-Roberts Tutorial College**  
Autumn Term begins at the TRTC. Mr Richard Loe continues as Registrar and Mr Simon Trevor-Roberts as Assistant Headmaster. Treasurers are Andrew Lemos and Andonis Lemos are Head Seniors. The Plays are on December 6, and term ends on December 7.







## LIFE AND TIMES

When the blitz began 50 years ago this week, the volunteer Night Watch at St Paul's cathedral was ready. Sir James Richards was with them



**'Men from 40 to 60 who can walk up stairs and not fear heights or fire'**

These were the words used in 1939 by Godfrey Allen, surveyor to the cathedral fabric, when war seemed imminent and he was authorized by the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's to advertise for volunteers to form the body that became known as the Night Watch.

In the day the cathedral was guarded by its own staff — maintenance men, vergers and the like — whose numbers would not stretch to night-time. As it happened, the anticipated air-raids came at night, and it was the Night Watch who had to go into action. Mr Allen placed his advertisement in the architectural papers because he wanted volunteers who could read plans, so complex is the behind-the-scenes layout of the cathedral. And he specified men aged over 40 because they would be free from call-up into the forces. He soon got as many as he needed — 40 volunteers, although more had to be called for later in the war.

Most were retired or elderly architects; a few were younger men who had jobs in London that exempted them from service. Few

of us are left now. In November 1987, when a memorial to Mr Allen was dedicated in the crypt, a reunion was arranged. Nine members of the Night Watch came, out of 11 then still living, plus two of the dozen or so women who had joined the watch as first-aid workers.

The complexity of the cathedral plan was in some ways an asset, as well as being the reason why so many volunteers were needed. There are passages in the thickness of the walls round the whole perimeter of the building, devised by Sir Christopher Wren not for access but to lighten the structure, and they allow all vulnerable areas such as the roof-spaces to be reached quickly by someone who knows their geography.

This is far from simple. The passages are connected vertically by more than 20 spiral staircases, each one different. Some stop at the church floor; some go down to the crypt; some open on to the various flat roofs; some continue up into the dome. The first task of the Night Watch, therefore, was to master this complicated geography, for one of our intended roles was to guide the fire brigade to the site of any big fire that might break out.

There were in fact no such fires. Instead, quantities of incendiary bombs came — as many as 28, I remember, on one busy night —

which the Night Watch was able to extinguish with stirrup-pumps, or by smothering them with sand. There were just two direct hits by high-explosive bombs, but these we knew nothing about until they had happened.

The points of danger with fire-bombs were the flat or slightly sloping roofs, all hidden from public view but accessible from passages and stairs. From the outside, the flanks of the cathedral appear as stone walls two storeys high, but the upper storey is only a screen wall hiding the aisle roofs. These are of timber, covered with lead, as are the four so-called pocket-roofs at each corner of the crossing. An incendiary bomb could fall unseen on any of these and, if not dealt with quickly, would melt the lead and set fire to the timbers. So all these roofs had to be watched constantly and reached quickly.

The salvation of St Paul's, therefore, was that a whole year was granted to the Night Watch

between its formation and the first bombs on London 50 years ago this week, on the evening and night of September 7, 1940. That year was spent learning the way through the hidden passages and roof spaces as well as the location of mains, stopcocks, water tanks, fire hydrants and the like, and practising, under Mr Allen's instruction, the use of fire hoses and stirrup-pumps.

Each volunteer spent one night a week in the cathedral. A few spent two. There were, therefore, seven or eight of us on duty every night, to which were added Mr Allen and his clerk-of-works, a few of the cathedral clergy, and the sub-librarian who had also volunteered. So we were only about a dozen in all when the bombs came.

We came on duty at 9.30pm, but often arrived earlier if it was a dark night, or if the air raid siren had sounded. We dressed in overalls, with belts to which were attached a torch to help us find our way along dark passages, and steel

helmets (which saved many bruised skulls when we blundered against low doorways).

During that invaluable first year of the war, we carried out nightly exercises with Mr Allen as our instructor. He devised ingenious ways of testing our improving knowledge of the building by dispatching pairs of us to hypothetical fires and telling us, for example, to suppose that certain passages were blocked by debris. Our evening exercises finished, we assembled in our mess room — at crypt level but outside the consecrated area, so smoking was allowed. We drank tea prepared by one of the first aid ladies, and listened to the midnight news. Then we took ourselves off to sleep in camp-beds which had been installed for us in the barrel vaults of the crypt, from which we could look out on to dimly-lit spaces peopled with sandbagged monuments and busts, and supine organ pipes that had been moved down there for safety.

At least, that was our routine until the bombing began. Then it became very different. Whether there was an air raid alert or not, two members of the watch patrolled the roofs to save time getting into action should the sirens sound. They were relieved every two hours. When there was an alert, which for two years from the autumn of 1940 was most nights of the week, roof patrols were strengthened, and the rest of us assembled at advanced headquarters — a point halfway up the main stair leading to the Whispering Gallery.

Here there was a telephone link to various points in the roof spaces, and we could quickly be summoned by those on patrol, not only to deal with fire-bombs landing on the cathedral — of which there were plenty, some starting fires in the roof timbers before they could be extinguished — but also to extinguish scraps of burning debris carried by the wind from fires in neighbouring buildings. So fierce were these fires at times that when crossing the church floor we had no need of our torches. The whole interior of the cathedral was illuminated by an orange glow.

There was one alarming occasion when a falling incendiary bomb stuck in the lead covering of

the dome and blazed away there, far out of reach. Luckily, it fell away and burnt itself out harmlessly on the paving of the Stone Gallery.

On some nights an alert produced nothing but distant explosions, much anti-aircraft gunfire, with its accompanying sparkles in the sky, and a display of searchlight fingers. Then those on patrol could enjoy the views over London, still punctuated then by the towers of Wren churches, with the silvery river — used by the bombers to guide them into the City — winding beyond them.

Throughout the blitz we had no serious casualties, not even from the two high-explosive bombs that struck the cathedral. One of these exploded in the north transept, and brought masonry crashing through the floor into the very area of the crypt where the Night Watch would have been sleeping, had they not been busy aloft. The most surprising aftermath of this explosion, I recall, was the sound of broken window-glass tinkling on to the church floor, which seemed to go on for several minutes.

The masonry dislodged from the north transept doorway included the memorial tablet to Sir Christopher Wren with its inscription: *St monumentum requirit, circumspecte.*

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## The men who saved St Paul's

## A voice from the Nazi past

**Martin Bormann's son has broken his silence to condemn plans for liberal abortion laws in a united Germany**



A young Martin Bormann Jr, left, with family members

LAST week in Germany, where the East German law on abortion (passed in March 1972, giving women the right to decide on termination) came close to putting off the historic signing of the unification treaty in the Berlin Reichstag, a voice was raised linking this familiar western conflict to the worst crimes in Germany's history. The voice was that of Martin Bormann — not, of course, Hitler's personal assistant and the most powerful next to him in Germany, but his oldest son.

Mr Bormann, now 60 years old, is a thoughtful and modest man who has carefully kept out of the limelight for many years. As a boy he was a fervent Nazi; with Hitler dead, his father's whereabouts unknown, his mother dead from cancer and his eight siblings fostered out abroad, he was alone. As he came to realise the horrors that had been committed, he became a devout Catholic, and finally a priest and missionary. He left the priesthood in 1971, and now teaches religion and Germanics in a school in the industrial heart of West Germany, where he and his wife live in a small village. They have no children.

I met him earlier this year while preparing an article about children of Nazis, which he and the rest of the group requested should not be published in Germany. The abortion issue has led him to break his self-imposed silence.

Last week he wrote an open letter to the Bundestag and German newspapers, entitled "Against Fascism, Stalinism and all ideologists contemptuous of human life".

"A right is assumed here which remains open to question," the letter says, "but which in any case is incompatible with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Man."

"Whosoever assumes the

right of disposal over unborn life comes perilously close to the so-called right of disposal over 'unworthy life', which is euthanasia in all its aspects: 'eugenics', 'mercy killing', 'killing on demand'. And that in our country, after the Holocaust, after the unspeakable wrong done not only to the Jews, but forced labourers from all over Europe, and to the moral concepts we hold dear. This way of thinking is terrifyingly close to that of National Socialist Germany, whose leadership took on the right of decision over whose life was worth nurturing, or who was 'unworthy' of living and therefore eligible for or assignable to — elimination.

"A German unification which grows out of a however glossed-over 'yes' to the killing of the unborn cannot lead us into a good future. We have gone far astray...."

The immense power of Mr Bormann's father lay in his control over access to Hitler during the last two years of the war, but throughout the preceding years he had systematically worked on destroying the influence of the churches. It is certain that now the impeccably moral son of an infamously amoral father views abortion largely as a committed Catholic — indeed, as a former priest. "But that isn't the beginning or the end of it," he said. "What is frightening is when a gross word such as 'abortion right' (*Abtreibungsrecht*), which has been banded about for weeks now in Bonn and our media, becomes part of the language, in cold judicial terms."

He feels that if this huge

problem is thus reduced to a legal-technical, rather than an ethical-human, question, it becomes impossible for the young to understand what this means.

"It means, on currently available figures, the non-existence, in what will be the new Germany, of about half a million human beings a year."

What had made him speak up on this emotional issue? "There have been other things I have felt strongly about, but none as deeply as this," he said. "It is the first time I have felt I just had to speak out."

IT IS unlikely that the old will care about Mr Bormann's appeal, but equally probable that the young, however naturally inclined toward the liberation of that particular law, will pause and think.

In a late-night session last Thursday, the West German government agreed to a compromise that will continue East Germany's more liberal abortion regulations for two years, after which a new all-German abortion law will be debated.

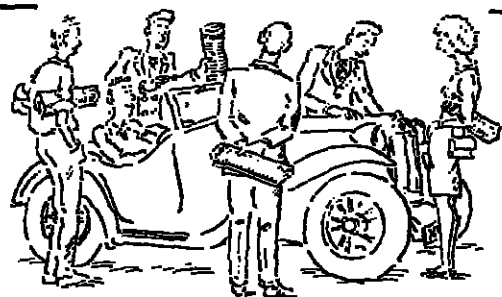
What did Mr Bormann think of this decision?

"It simply delays the final decision, which we must hope will seek to communicate to our children not only an understanding of social necessities, but also a reverence for life."

GITTA SERENY

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# A hero of our dinner time



Tears on an Italian football pitch made Paul Gascoigne the topic on everyone's lips. Julie Welch tries to explain our obsession

I can hardly believe this, but I have just spent an entire evening talking about one footballer. At dinner parties you usually manage to cover the burning issues of the day — whose husband was caught in flagrante with the nanny, whose mortgage has gone up the most — before the fifth bottle of Fleury gets to everyone's vocal cords. But not even schools (state primary, decent, lack of in the area) got a look in. What on earth is going on?

There was no problem until July. Then came England's semi-final against West Germany in the World Cup, and the moment when Paul Gascoigne, a reasonably well-known player with Tottenham Hotspur, became the victim of an iffy refereeing decision. As he realised that, even if England were to win that night, he would not be allowed to play in the final, his shirt-button eyes filled with tears, his transports were beamed into living rooms everywhere, and a star was born. Gascoigne became the most famous footballer in the country, not for winning, but for not winning.

There is certainly something mysteriously attractive about Gascoigne. Graham Gooch may have broken Don Bradman's record at run-making but, give or take a few cricket buffs hunched over their gin-and-its in the snug bar, who is talking about him? Does Gooch's honest, yeoman face shine out at you every time you look in a newspaper? No, it's our hero again, sobbing into his shirt.

Gascoigne is appealing in a kitsch sort of way; one is reminded of those ineffably twee paintings of moppets with single teardrops running down their faces. But appealing he is, whereas Gooch is just a balding man from Essex who is doing a job.

Among Gascoigne's team mates, Gary Lineker scores more goals, David Platt is a better leader and Des Walker and Mark Wright are just as lion-hearted. Gascoigne's disciplinary record is not great and, until

the World Cup, he was dismissed in many quarters as a somewhat fat and silly under-achiever. But now there is a national love affair raging over this plump puppy from Gateshead. Why?

There are several ways of looking at the Gazza phenomenon. Number one, he is a football genius in the mould of Bobby Charlton and Stanley Matthews. As Matthews was the wizard of the dribble and Charlton the master of the 20-yard thump into goal, so Gascoigne has his own special quality that renders him outstanding. When so much of modern football is excruciatingly mundane, Gascoigne runs with the ball at opponents and beats one, two, three men in succession. He is an exciting throw-back to those long-ago days when boots were brown and the ball was made of leather.

Two, he is an ordinary-class, tradable commodity who, in the next six months, will amass £500,000 in contracts and endorsements, which will leave not only him but his agent and accountant very nicely off. He is already being wisely and cleverly marketed, although I still think they ought to get him to put his name to a brand of paper handkerchiefs. Gascoigne — soft yet strong.

Three, he is a clowning yob, whose leap to fame has been facilitated by the absence of any truly great player because our country does not produce those any more. The face of English football in the early 1990s is an excitable blockhead who cannot take part in a friendly without getting booked.

Four, he represents the new man, unashamedly expressing emotion alongside more conventionally macho virtues such as courage, pride and patriotism. He is not afraid to bare his heart on the football pitch. He cared and he cried — and then he went on and played good football for his country.

Five, he is a sex symbol, like George Best. All right, he is not



Conversation piece: Paul Gascoigne in action and (above left) autographing a ball on the team's return

anywhere near as handsome as the Irishman, but Gascoigne is a product of a different age. Best was the Beetle of the sports world, the consort of beauty queens, the tortured, creative artist. Gascoigne is the boy next door in a chain-store T-shirt with a pint of lager in one paw, and a gorgeous, pouring blonde in the other.

Gascoigne is most like Best in the male interest and admiration he attracts. Do the men despise him for crying? No way. As one man said on the subject: "I think it showed his total involvement. I think he was conned over the booking. I think it was partly tears of bitterness, but that didn't detract from the power of the moment. I felt sorry for him. It meant so much to him. At that moment I felt more for him than at

any previous time with all his posturing and posing for the tabloids with a Christmas pudding on his head."

Six, he is a sporting icon, a potent symbol of national hope and pride, of the recovery of our self-respect. He was the focal point of our valiant defeat in the World Cup. He represents all those characteristics on which we preen ourselves — loyalty, fighting spirit, tenacity, indomitability. Out there on a football pitch, Gascoigne is taking people on, and for a moment we forget our everyday humiliations and compromises. In our society, we do not take people on; we avoid confrontation, we square with them, we are not true to ourselves. No

where we idealise Gascoigne. Seven, he has been given a starring role in our national soap opera, alongside various members of the royal family and the cast of *EastEnders*. The tabloid papers are already full of those sickly, intrusive banalities about his private life, those mock-solicitous essays on his well-being, and the worst thing is we cannot get enough of it — has Gazza got the right stuff? How will he cope with fame? Is he going to self-destruct like George Best?

I am going to slap a moratorium on Gazza-talk. Anyone who comes to my house will have to sign a legal document promising they will leave immediately if they mention the dreaded name. They can come back when they are ready to talk about mortgages and nannies again.

## When fear calls at your door

If you are confident you would never let a stranger into your home, read on

BY EIGHT o'clock on an oppressively humid Friday, north London seemed to have emptied itself. The August bank holiday had deadened the streets; the other four flats in the corner house where I live were silent. The house next door was a vacant crumble of builders' debris.

I did not intend to go out that night and double locked the front door. The previous week a woman in the area had been raped in her flat. She had, so someone told me, let her attacker in. I had thought about this for a while, trying to visualise it — under what circumstances would I let a stranger into my own home?

Ten minutes after I had locked up, I heard the doorbell being rung in the flat down stairs. Some

seconds later, my bell was rung. A male voice on the entry-phone announced that he was from the CID and would like to ask me some questions. I unlocked my own door, removed its safety chain and went downstairs. The front door has no safety chain and for an instant I wondered, what if...? I opened it.

There was a man on the doorstep, pleasant-faced, in his mid-twenties, smartly dressed in a shirt and tie. He did not look like a policeman. He held out an identification card. I glanced at it, simultaneously realising that had it been a bus pass I wouldn't have known the difference.

He said he wanted to ask about an incident that had occurred last Monday. I replied that was fine. He stepped into the hall. Maybe that was the moment when I should have said no, but I didn't. We went into the flat. When he asked if he could close the door, I refused. There was another open door leading on to a balcony, overlooking the silent street, and I stood next to that. He said that he was making door-to-door inquiries, asking people their names and dates of birth. This seemed bizarre. "It's for the computer," he said.

He looked around the room. "Do you have a boyfriend or a husband? Are they here?" he asked. It is difficult to explain

very serious, or murder." I couldn't remember what I had been doing that Monday afternoon and, finally, he left.

When he had gone I began to feel ashamed. He had been unfailingly polite. I had beamed out hostility. With-out exception, however, my friends berated me for letting him into the flat.

I rang the police station. Was it standard procedure to send out plain-clothes male officers to investigate sex attacks? It was a woman who dealt with my query. "There are an abundance of male officers here and hardly any women," she said. "Yes, you should always always check — I know I would."

When that policeman left I had blamed myself for having too vivid an imagination. Now I am not so sure. I think it is a system that sends out young male officers in plain clothes to investigate attacks against women that lacks imagination. If it happens again I will not be embarrassed to keep a man outside a locked front door while I phone to check his credentials.

FIONNUALA MCHUGH

## Making a bid for notoriety

An auction with a sense of mystery brings out the bargain hunters

THE souvenir and tea shop owners of Stratford, and perhaps William Shakespeare himself, must have been feeling pretty peeved at the weekend. For the past three days, hundreds of people, as on any sunny summer weekend, have headed towards the town of the Bard's birth. This weekend though, they all stopped ten miles south of the town. Their destination was the tiny hamlet of Sutton-under-Brailes, for what was touted as a great family day out.

The big attraction was not rollercoaster rides in a theme park, but the viewing, prior to auction, of the contents of Sutton Brailes manor. At 10am tomorrow, Sotheby's will be selling, for a total of at least £250,000, the ceramics, glass, silver, jewellery, works of art, clocks, furniture, rugs, textiles, motor cars and related items, miscellaneous household effects, garden furniture and implements of Dorothea Allen, the mysterious millionaire.

"You can't explain the popularity of the viewing in terms of the size of the property," says Paul Sanderson, the district valuer at Warwick, whose role is to offer independent advice to the Treasury solicitor for efficient disposal of the house and contents. "With a guide price of £700,000, Sutton Brailes is fairly small beer. The public are fascinated because it is an unusual house, and Mrs Allen was a very unusual lady."

Mrs Allen died in January, aged 89, having lived as a recluse for years and having destroyed all documents about her early life. She left more than £1 million and no clues as to any rightful heir.

The sale has caught everyone's imagination," says Samantha Georgeson of Sotheby's Chester office. "People have been in a real rush to get here. No end of them rang on their car-phones desperate for directions." When they finally arrived, the crowd, consisting largely of OAPs, charged past the marquees and beer tents, portable



Country seat? Checking the goods at the Sutton Brailes manor preview

toilets and overgrown flowerbeds, in a bee-line for the £7 catalogue and the 28-roomed house. Naturally, many felt that the manor was haunted. "The small dining room, in particular, gave us a funny feeling," confided a Hermes-scarfed, Cartier-handbagged, and Rolex-watched lady into the Range Rover's car-phone.

Ghostly or otherwise, Mrs Allen is talked of by all her visitors as a close friend, and only ever referred to as "she". Such a pity, sighed two septuagenarians as they ambled short-sightedly over the Kerman prayer rug (estimate £1,000), that she had no children and no central heating. It was quite an education, they agreed, to see her house. She was obviously fastidious in her personal life, you could tell by the draughtproof curtains. Isn't the Japanese china lovely? Chinese, said the other Japanese. I thought. An awkward silence, a couple of ticks of the grandfather clock (John Ingram, estimate £500) before they resolved, or at least shelved, their dif-

ferences, turning as one to Lot 501, the 17th-century-style dresser (£1,000). Isn't that just like yours?

Everyone talks loudly about the similar (or superior) pieces they picked up for a song years ago. They like to be shocked by the prices quoted here, particularly that of the fine George I walnut bureau bookcase valued between £18,000 and £25,000.

MRS ALLEN'S taste also comes up for scrutiny. The 17th-century-style walnut table "with unusual iron supports" was quite horrible; that oak refectory table, dreadfully narrow. As for the Charles I-style armchair, it was just, said one lady as her husband whipped out his tape measure, hideous.

"It's all terribly OTT," said one. "High-class jumble sale," sniffed another. "It smells rather," offered a third. "And I suppose that woman baring her stomach must have thought she looked nice in the mirror this morning." Perhaps, suggested one, it would be worth checking for coins

down the sides of the sofas. Boys, in short and long trousers, looked wistfully at parents, or sometimes wives, hoping for a surprise present: perhaps Lot 552 (a black Rolls-Royce Corniche convertible coupé for a mere £30,000-£40,000); more likely Lot 550 (a bag of assorted material offcuts for £5).

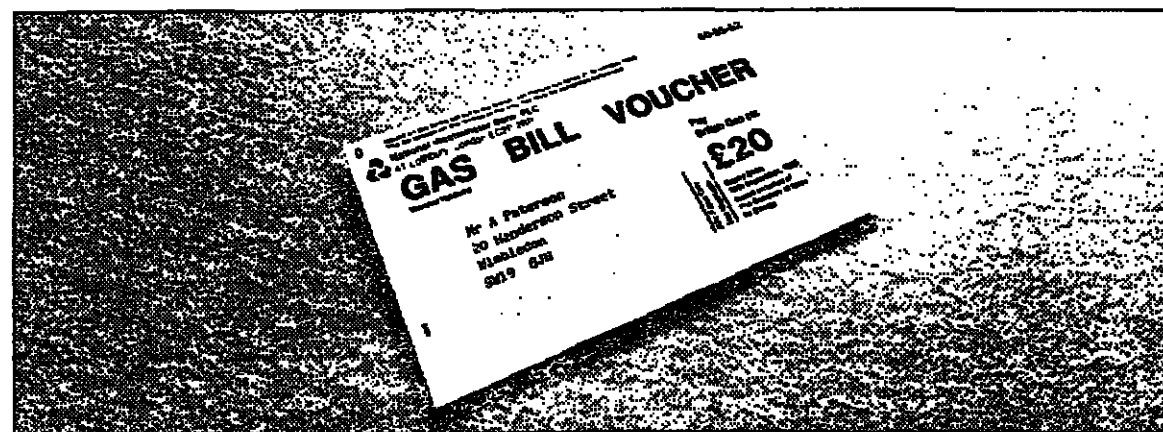
There were more than 1,000 items on display, and the valuers do not seem to have weighted their estimates to reflect the curiosity value. The 1964 Daimler is down at £8,000; five golf bags with 29 clubs can be had for £55.

Many lots are not much to look at, but the chance to explore the house with an unsolved mystery attached was cheerfully taken by hundreds. "Everyone enjoys themselves so much they come back time after time," says Chris Proudlove, from Sotheby's Chester office. "They may say it's rubbish, but they'll all be back tomorrow."

NICOLA MURPHY

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British Gas



## ARTS

## THEATRE

# Thespian passion that turned to tragedy

Rupert Smith recalls transatlantic theatrical rivalry, the subject of Richard Nelson's latest play, entitled *Two Shakespearean Actors*

When the eminent British actor William Charles Macready took his touring production of *Hamlet* to Cincinnati in 1849, one member of the audience disliked the show so much that he was moved to fling half a dead sheep on to the stage, interrupting the Recorder's scene. By the time the tour had reached New York a few weeks later, matters had deteriorated. This time, the consequences were fatal.

Macready had chosen to open his New York season with *Macbeth*, although there were already two productions of the same play being staged in the city one of them starring his arch-rival, the American actor Edwin Forrest. The first night of Macready's production ended in disaster: under a hail of missiles and heckles ("Down with the English hog!"), Macready had to bring the curtain down in the third act. The following night riots broke out in and around the theatre in Astor Place. The militia fired on the crowd: 31 people were killed and many more injured.

The thought of theatre-goers today getting as excited is unimaginable, and although it is fun to pretend that rival fans of Richard Briers, John Wood and Brian Cox might stock up at the butcher's before going to disrupt the enemy's performance of *King Lear*, the scenario is fairly unlikely.

However, the American audiences of 1849 were fired by strong passions. Macready, all statesman and class, epitomised British culture; Edwin Forrest, his junior by 13 years, was a huge, muscular man given to frenzied histrionics. He was, moreover, an ardent patriot. The riots were not simply a clash between opposing teams; Forrest and Macready represented a clash between the New World and the Old.

This extraordinary footnote to theatre history has been taken by American playwright Richard



Theatrical enemies: American actor Edwin Forrest (left) and British arch-rival, actor William Charles Macready

Nelson as the basis for *Two Shakespearean Actors*, his second RSC commission. His first, last year's *Some Americans Abroad*, looked at the divide between Britain and the United States through the eyes of a group of eager American culture-vultures.

The new play returns to the theme, but is set in a period when culture is something to die for, rather than something merely to consume. America of the 1840s was a country trying to define itself. Midway between independence and the Civil War, every effort was made to break away from the dominance of British culture; the two actors neatly symbolised the dominant traits of the two nations.

Their stereotypes are alive and well today, not least in the media. British actors are often cast as repressed, sinister characters in American films, while American actors are generally praised or damned for their non-intellectual,

physical qualities as performers.

John Malkovich, the most recent export to the British stage, raised the spectre of Brando in *Burnt This*, inspiring critics to trot out descriptions of the all-American maelstrom ("a wounded animal" in the *Financial Times*, "a hunted lion" in the *Sunday Express*, "rampaging, threatening, mesmerising" in the *London Evening Standard*, "a human grenade with the pin half out" in the *Times*, "restless muscularity" in the *Listener*).

Richard Nelson himself epitomises another great American stereotype: the way New York artist/intellectual. His interest in the Forrest-Macready story stems in part from a longing for the time when American society was in turmoil, when theatre was a channel for profound cultural re-adjustment. The passion for theatre that he writes about in *Two Shakespearean Actors* no longer exists in the West; but in Eastern Europe, South America and South Africa it flourishes.



Print showing the Astor Place riot: An American protest against Macready's British production of *Macbeth*, staged in New York in 1849

dominated at every level — if you don't have an ideal, you might as well have a dollar — and that's reflected in theatre."

In such a sterile environment, the rivalry between British and American theatre has shifted its grounds, away from the blood-soaked cobblestones of Astor Place to the penthouses of uptown Manhattan. "I went to a theatrical cocktail party in New York about four months ago," explains Nelson, "and people could not stop talking about how bad British musicals are. Right now, there's a great, deep resentment of the British musical that's almost totally nationalistic. Americans feel that they created the musical, and

are mired in a bunch of archaic rules about the form. When they see British musicals opening up all over Broadway, they feel that something dear has been stolen."

Such resentment stems from commercial as well as nationalistic grounds — *The Phantom of the Opera* is presumably not criticised as an erosion of Western civilisation, but because it is taking box-office earnings away from native products. The recent fuss over *Miss Saigon* was over the casting of a Caucasian actor in a Eurasian role. However, if the musical does not reach Broadway, many Americans will gloat over the failure of a British import to find a New York audience.

What becomes clear from the story of *Two Shakespearean Actors*, and from Nelson's nostalgia for social upheaval, is the extent to which theatre has become a marginal entertainment, a million miles from the blood and thunder that inspired fans of 150 years ago.

Nelson claims to welcome the disappearance of boundaries between the countries. "One could say that I've taken commissions away from British writers by writing for the RSC, but the play argues that artistic expression should know no boundaries, should not have flags."

● *Two Shakespearean Actors* opens tomorrow night at the Swan Theatre in Stratford (0789 295623).

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## SCULPTURE

## The creation of man's 'next phase'

Tiffany Bown talks to Chinese sculptor Gu Dexin who is currently working in London

China's cultural climate has changed since its first and only avant-garde art exhibition was held in Peking in February 1989. Although widely and optimistically interpreted at the time as an extension of the government's economic liberalisation to society and the arts, this tolerance came to an abrupt end after the events of Tiananmen square four months later.

Five days after Gu Dexin (one of the exhibitors in *China Avant-Garde*) returned from an exhibition in Paris, the government suppressed its people's demands for democracy with tanks and guns. In November last year an exhibition of a very different kind opened in Peking: *Baptism of Blood and Fire*, devoted to the People's Liberation Army's action.

The 26-year-old Gu, who still lives in China, is at present in London to help transform the Wapping Pumping Station, a disused hydraulic power plant, for an exhibition entitled *Nextphase*. The organisers hope, through the responses of 12 international artists to the idle boilers, pumps and turbines of this vast Victorian pile, to promote a dialogue on the "next phase" of technology, art, society and politics throughout the world. Gu and others like him are trying to keep China artistically in tune with world events, despite the clampdown after June 4, 1989. Their attempts are often curious in form, angry in sentiment and experimental in quality. Among the Peking avant-garde show's 250 exhibits were a transparent plastic mattress filled with water and dead fish, an inflated plastic breast, a flaccid phallus, surgical gloves oozing greenish-brown slime, and a man throwing 7,000 inflated condoms on the floor.

Gu's paintings and sculptures are relatively conservative. They try to promote "a kind of love, a humanitarian ideal" through the sense of touch. He creates, with a blowtorch, huge undulating shapes from waste plastic, a technique acquired in his unconventional "art school" — a plastics factory.

"As I was already an artist," Gu says, "it was natural for me at the factory to interpret plastic as a type of art." During his time at the factory Gu consolidated a shift from self-taught, traditional methods to a "modern" style, more suitable, in his view, for expressing his feelings about contemporary society.

Sometimes personal dialogue between Gu and the material is all-important; at other times he wants to alienate his personality from his art to focus directly on texture and substance. "As an artist, I don't



Gu Dexin and his plastics sculpture for the Nextphase exhibition at Wapping Pumping Station

want rules restricting me," he says. "By experimenting with different methods, I stress the need for artistic freedom."

Last year's Tiananmen square events have profoundly affected China's cultural community. Since that time there has been a clampdown on artists, with many being purged, imprisoned or exiled. Inconsistencies in such action can be interpreted as reflecting divisions within the leadership. Writers, for example, have fared particularly badly.

As regards painters, state-employed members of the Association of Artists are still allowed to exhibit work. But underground — mostly modern — artists such as Gu are less free, he says. "We have been unable to show our work since June 4 last year." Gu is personally unaware of government pressure preventing

underground artists from working, only from exhibiting. His answer to the pressure has been to withdraw from society and politics to devote himself to art.

"My artistic development is very personal," he says. "As long as I am free to create what I wish, exhibiting is secondary. Many artists wishing to exhibit stop working. I have friends who have stopped."

Is contemporary Chinese art of a high quality? Gu says there are many talented, modern artists working underground, but official art portrays poor-quality realism: its subjects include hotels, urban construction, rural life and ethnic minorities. Aspiring official artists, according to Gu, have to meet two preconditions: the authorities must like their work, and good contacts are vital. "The person matters, but not really the work itself." Realistic pictures are favoured, he says.

If the Chinese government does not allow unofficial artists to show work at home, why did it allow Gu to visit Paris last year and London now? The answer, says Gu, is simple: it did not. Gu travelled overseas as a tourist both times. "Because I work underground, I am not officially an artist. I am officially unemployed, with no work unit, so I applied for a tourist passport."

Gu does not want to leave China, despite the restrictions. He is devoted to his country and his work.

"China needs a humanitarian influence and modern art. I am confident about my country's future, about future liberalisation. I wish to contribute to the development of China's modern art."

● Nextphase is at Wapping Pumping Station, Wapping Wall, E1 from Friday to October 13. For further information call 071-700 0982.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

## Top strings win their wings

Stephen Pettitt hears young quartets under expert guidance

ANTHROPOLOGISTS who study the instrumental profession would soon discern three varieties of the species. There are orchestral musicians, for whom the prospect of bending to another's will is no hardship. There are soloists, the natural exhibitionists, convinced that they have something individual to say. And there is that happy breed, the chamber musicians, who relish the dual challenge of fitting in yet speaking out.

Plenty of young string instrumentalists want to play chamber music; the problems arise when aspiring quartets try to forge a career. However, new quartets are now at least able to find advanced training in a number of British summer courses.

At Snape, the Britten-Pears School has been running its fortnight-long course for several years. Its participants are predominantly British, and the standards are high. In particular, the McCapra Quartet gave an assured reading of

Shostakovich's Eighth Quartet. The McCapra looked surprisingly young (they are all in their early twenties), so when I spoke to the second violinist, Marcus Broomé, and the cellist, Ben Chappell, I was surprised to hear that they had already been quartet-in-residence at Aldeburgh.

The group met at the Guildhall School of Music. They all earn money from other work, be it freelance engagements or teaching. "It's sometimes hard to keep a balance," says Chappell, "but the quartet has to come first. We have at least three or four rehearsals every week as a matter of policy, and give a concert usually about once a fortnight. As long as we keep up that commitment, I think we actually welcome the opportunity to do other things."

This is their second visit to the course at Snape. "We're not made to feel as though we're just students. It's a professional environment. It's good to have active, expert quartet players helping us to form our personality. So many things you only half hear when you're playing." The quartet is about to take up a residency at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge. Those that attend the Amadeus

Summer Course, at Regent's College in London, tend to be older and a more international bunch. Some, such as the Skampa Quartet from Czechoslovakia, are already well established professionally. Still, as at Snape, they are not generally well-off musicians. In fact, as Sigismund Nissel of the Amadeus told me, all but "one and a half" quartets attending this year were subsidised by the Amadeus Scholarship Fund.

Nissel is concerned that the necessary capital might be harder to come by next year. "It would be a great pity. These are marvellous surroundings for a course of this nature, and we have some good people coming here."

"There's only one British quartet, which is sad, but we have quartets from Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania and East Germany." Scattered about also are Japanese, Italian, French and Danish musicians. One of the two quartets from Poland, the excellent Camera Quartet, has driven all the way here in a Peugeot. Clearly the opportunity to share some of the Amadeus's wisdom is irresistible, even at hundreds of miles' distance.

## TELEVISION

## Bad news without a writer

SOMETHING went adrift with the second half of Les Blair's *News Hounds* (BBC 1), which started Screen One's autumn season last night; it was, I think, the lack of an official writer. Blair makes his films in the Mike Leigh tradition of improvisation, whereby the cast is assigned characters and situations and works out, several weeks in advance, what they might say and do in them.

The setting here was principally the newsroom of a downmarket tabloid called *The Brit*. *News Hounds* started out promisingly enough as a variant on David Hare's play, *Pravda*, concerned with the rampant immorality of the new streets of shame. The casting, too, was promising: Alison Steadman as the "Glenda Slag" columnist Adrian Edmondson as the ruthlessly scavenging hack, Judith Scott as the ambitious girl reporter and Anthony Marsh as the wonderfully weary ombudsman and readers' friend, left to apologise for more and more blatant breaches by his colleagues of Press Council codes of practice.

So far, so tacky. But after about 50 minutes it became clear that despite meticulous research Blair and his team had nothing very new to tell us about the daily sex-and-scandal sheets, nor about those who make their living writing and photographing for them. The programme began to drift into consideration of their victims, notably a young soap opera star being done over in the hope that he might prove to be gay or still on drugs.

In the end he turned out to be merely illegitimate, the child of the woman he had grown up believing was his sister, but in order to establish this the pro-

gramme lurched into a sub-plot worthy of *Bergerac* or *Casualty*. Somewhere along that route the viewer lost focus on whatever Blair was trying to say about tabloid morality, which is essentially that there is not a lot of it.

What made *Pravda* work was the flamboyance of the central characters and the burning sense of hatred and injustice with which it approached its targets. The most one could say for Blair's actors was that they seemed not to like the popular press much, but if they had been let loose on, say, a community of theatre managers or estate agents the conclusions and character sketches might have come out much the same.

Channel 4's television-newsroom parody *Drop the Dead Donkey* (Thursdays) works so superbly well after week because its writers never get sidetracked by the news itself; they know all the best stories and jokes are already on the desks of the editors, and that the world outside is only a minor interruption of real, backstabbing life.

For *News Hounds* the world outside was allowed to take on a soap-opera reality, which did no good to its central thesis about the power of professionals to destroy amateur lives. This is, admittedly, a precarious balancing act that *L.A. Law* continues to achieve. In the end, however, the decision must be made: whether to be on the outside looking in or on the inside shovelling it all out: *News Hounds* could never quite decide.

After what must have been the most extensive poster campaign since Careless Talk Costs Lives, *The Simpsons* (Sky) finally made their debut last night. This is not, by the way, another mini-series involving Wallis and the king who

abdicated; instead, it is a cartoon series from America which has been leading the ratings there since January, for reasons that are not yet entirely clear.

Created by the artist Matt Groening and a hitherto rather sensitive Oscar-winning film director, James L. Brooks, *The Simpsons* is a situation comedy parody somewhere between *Roseanne* and *Till Death us do Part*. Father is a safety inspector at a nuclear-power plant; mother wears beehive hair, several feet above her head; son wears a sweatshirt labelled "under-achiever and proud of it" and there is a perpetually dummy-sucking baby. Last night they bought a second-hand caravan, got lost in the woods and father was mistaken by scientists for a rare wild beast.

Not a lot for 30 minutes, but *The Simpsons*, which began as inserts in a Tracey Ullman show, has now worked its way far enough into the fibre of America to qualify for both *Newsweek* and *Rolling Stone* cover stories. One cannot straddle the media spectrum much better than that.

Clearly there is more here than meets the eye in episode one, and it may well be that the series perfectly evokes (but just off-centre) all those 1950s small-town films in which the ideal family turned out to be Spencer Tracy and Myrna Loy, with Elizabeth Taylor for a daughter. Except that something is wrong here: the Simpsons have eight fingers per hand, and suck pork chops straight from the freezer. They would seem to be the point at which the American dream becomes the American nightmare.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

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## ARTS

## PERFORMANCE ART

## Junk comes in to moor

There is a chance that, when taking an evening stroll along the Thames in Richmond or on the South Bank, passers-by may have chanced upon what looked like the crew of a clapped-out barge running amok, cranes winching oil drums into the air, sirens wailing, pipes heaving ready to explode, and miniature helicopters—remote-controlled by figures clad in oilskins and sou'westers—circling above spitting sparks and smoke.

With its show, *The Navigators*, Bow Gamelan was back as part of last year's London International Festival of Theatre. The company has now moved indoors with its latest show, *On Tour*, which opens next week at the Riverside Studios, the first venue in its nationwide and European tour. Using only urban junk, Bow Gamelan explores the acoustic and engineering possibilities of whatever it finds.

In 1986, the company's show *Inland* bewildered audiences and critics, with hoovers choreographed like Tiller girls, underwater drumming, Morris Minors with a life of their own, and accompaniment by "sound poet" Rob Cobbin. *Offshore Rig*, a year later, utilised 500-litre oil drums filled with water which had been heated over a wood fire, blow-torched sheets of glass, and pyrotechnics (see blowlamps played through old fluorescent tubes). The company was formed in

Andrew Lucie talks to Bow Gamelan, the experimental group which uses industrial junk in its latest indoor work, *On Tour*

1983 when a group of artists took off down Bow Creek in what could only nominally be described as a boat. The proud owner of the vessel was sculptor Richard Wilson, who had yet to have a solo show; three years later he was exhibiting as part of the British pavilion at the Venice Biennale. Also on board was performance artist, Anne Bean, and a percussionist and future mainstay of the group, Paul Burwell. "We were always breaking down or going against," recalls Burwell, "and the ones who most consistently waded in the water or widdled a spanner were the three of us. While repairing the boat, we were drawn together by a kind of language of hands and developed a sensitivity to machinery."

Burwell attended naval college in his teens, and has always had a fascination with water, on which many of the group's shows have been mounted. "One of the most efficient ways of moving large objects is by water," he notes.

After abandoning his studies at naval college he turned to drumming, and played for several of Steven Berkoff's early shows. In the Seventies, he formed a duo with musician David Toop, mix-

ing non-Western music, animal sounds and zany anthropology. It was then back to the water.

Christening themselves Bow, from the river, and Gamelan from the traditional Indonesian gong ensemble, the group's first intention was to participate in an exhibition of sound sculpture, but it was diverted into an evening of performance work using new musical instruments at the London Musician's Collective.

Since then the group has performed in venues indoors and out, ranging from a Swindon shopping mall to venues from Mexico to Japan. "We also take out a precarious living doing the centennial celebrations for the founding of cities, most recently Birmingham and Wakefield. We also did the annual fireworks display for the local borough. If you fit in nowhere, you can sneak in at extreme notions of what makes contemporary music and theatre."

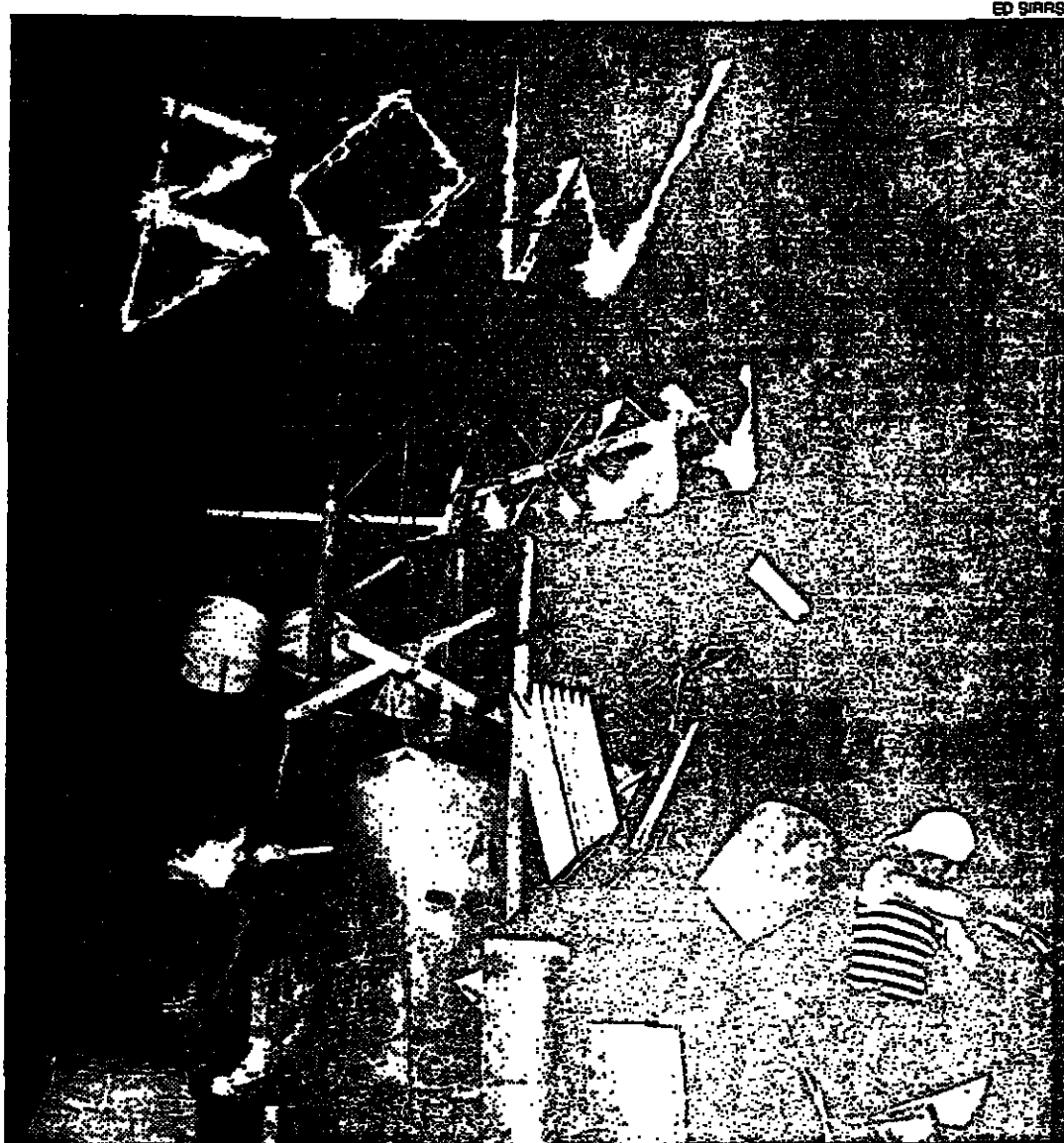
Burwell has the air of an eccentric plumber when first encountered. His kitchen is covered with hubcaps painstakingly being threaded into gongs by two artists assisting him on the new show. Upstairs, he enthuses about the disused power station

"resembling Coventry Cathedral, 1944" that will be the group's Belgrade venue. He also hopes to integrate ideas about Tessler, a local who explored ways of transmitting electricity without wire. "I was going to say visionary electrician but that sounds too silly."

The new show has no theme as such, but the greater emphasis on the performers is a new development. "We've used over 30 people since our inception, and after seven years of constructing the shows accidentally, we're now realising that we have a sense of history that can't be ignored, and that the people should be used on the same level as the machinery."

If this makes Bow Gamelan's previous work sound cold, it could not be further from the truth. Burwell is obsessed with how others are stimulated and motivated, and a lot of people who've worked with the group have been steam engineers and mechanics rather than artists. "If one had to make a pantheon of Bow Gamelan heroes, they would include the great engineers Sir Alec Issigonis—of the Morris Minor and the Mini—Thomas Telford, Brunel, and Sopwith of the Camel. Our creed comes from the Balinese: we don't have any art, we do everything as well as we can."

Bow Gamelan opens on Wednesday until September 15 at the Riverside Studios, London W6 (081-748 3354)



Urban waste utilised: Bow Gamelan's industrial set for *The Navigators*, produced last year aboard a barge

## Heated questions

FOLLOWERS of last autumn's extended altercation between the playwright David Hare and the *New York Times* critic Frank Rich—an argument sparked by Rich's unfavourable review of Hare's *Secret Rapture* on Broadway—will be interested to note that Rich, making a visit to London, gave Hare's current play, *Racing Demon*, a rave review in last Wednesday's *New York Times*. This was the critic's first notice of a Hare play since the dispute began last November.

Rich praised the new play as one of London's "most fascinating". The reception bodes well for a New York engagement of the play. But several questions remain: will Hare recant on his decision, made in the heat of the moment, never to work in New York again? And if so, will he insist on casting his American girlfriend, Blair Brown, whose Broadway performance in *The Secret Rapture* was at the root of the controversy?

## Mining gold

ALED Jones, the fair-haired former boy soprano with the golden cords and platinum records, faced the public last week in his first significant non-singing role. The debut came in a production of Richard Llewellyn's 1939 hit, *How Green Was My Valley*, at the Theatre Royal, Northampton. In Shaun McKenna's adaptation, three actors play Huw Morgan, the miner's son who looks back on his Welsh childhood.

Jones, now a student at the Royal Academy of Music, plays Huw at the age of 19. The next academic year will have begun before the play ends its four-week run; for the last few performances Jones will be commuting between London and Northampton. And what of his famous voice? These days, he says, it is "a high baritone".

## Dance scoops

THE Alhambra, Bradford, which is bringing the Alvin Ailey dance company for an exclusive visit in October (Briefing, August 21), is not the only regional theatre to take advantage of London's lack of suitable stages for dance. The Theatre Royal, Glasgow, has booked the Stuttgart Ballet for December. One of Europe's leading companies, it has not visited Britain since 1981, and Glasgow will be its only stop this time. The programmes for Glasgow will be two full-evening ballets: John Cranko's comedy *The Taming of the Shrew* and the British premiere of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, in choreography by John Neumeier to a score by Alfred Schnittke.

Meanwhile, the Demgane, Northampton, has scooped an up and coming American company, the Miami Ballet, for its only British appearances, September 26 to 29. The director is Edward Villella, formally one of the stars of New York City Ballet.



Victim of retiling: singer Paul Simon

## Record response

FOLLOWING in the gang-bro Vietnam spirit of Barry Sadler's 1966 hit single, "The Ballad of the Green Berets", some American radio DJs have been responding to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait by retiling the records they play. Included among the unwitting and presumably unwilling victims so far have been Simon and Garfunkel, Fine Young Cannibals, and Milli Vanilli. Paul Simon's song, "I Am a Rock", has been changed to "I Am Iraq, I am the tyrant", which will surely not sit well with Simon's continuing efforts to break down ideological prejudice.

If British DJs feel compelled to pursue this trend in a more constructive and tasteful manner, then there are records in the charts which could serve, without the addition of radio-personality style "humour" or politics. "Release Me", by Wilson Phillips, George Michael's "Praying for Time" or Lindy Layton's "Silly Games" encapsulate some of the more important aspects of the situation without necessarily precipitating a descent into jingoism.

## Last chance

AFTER an 11-month run, *Shadowlands* closes this Saturday, writes Jeremy Kingston. Nigel Hawthorne has been with the production since it opened, playing C.S. Lewis, the crusty Oxford misogynist who falls in love with a younger woman and is then shattered by her early death. She is played by the American actress Jane Alexander, who took over the role from Jane Lapotaire. Justly praised for the quality of its time and its emotional power, William Nicholson's play will transfer with Hawthorne and Alexander to Broadway. See it at the Queen's Theatre (071-734 1166) this week, or in New York in November.



Adversaries: David Hare (left) and Frank Rich (see top story)



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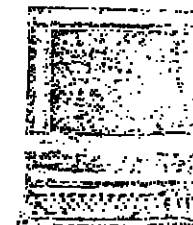
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## REVIEWS

## Stuck in the generation trap

## ROCK

Fleetwood Mac  
Wembley Stadium

WHO goes to Fleetwood Mac concerts nowadays? Coachfuls of ordinary people, it seems. A more pertinent question is: who exactly plays at Fleetwood Mac concerts nowadays? One of those same coaches could be filled with personnel who used to be in the band.

This lone fact makes seeing Fleetwood Mac these days a stimulating experience. The group's current members span no fewer than three musical generations, so when Billy Burnette, one of two recent recruits, announced "a blast from the past", he was referring not to his past but to that of the time-worn rhythm section pair, Mick Fleetwood and John McVie, the band's two surviving founders.

Fleetwood was keen to get himself noticed. The triplicate video screens revealed a head scruffily covered in hair, apart from a space on top and in the middle, out of which stared a pair of zany unblinking eyeballs. When the moment for his statutory drum solo came round, a moment which lasted a good (or ghastly) 15 minutes, he lived up to proceedings by mixing in some crazy vocal rantings, as if preaching to the assembled multitudes

from on top of a soapbox in Cardboard City. At the end of the show he left the stage clutching a teddy bear and a tambourine.

In fact both of these came from the props cupboard of Stevie Nicks, whose role as the group's flaky chanteuse was severely underplayed. Resting her voice for more than half the show, she filled her time onstage by modelling the sort of wistfully flowing, ethereal garb which makes her look like a wicked witch of the west coast. When she actually began to sing songs such as "Rhiannon" and "Dreams" (sadly no "Sara"), they were moments to savour.

They were also moments of relief, because Fleetwood Mac seemed regrettably eager to demonstrate that their repertoire contains a potted history of popular music — from blues to folk to rock to the dull MOR mush of their current album, "Oh Well", from their distant past, came over as a perfectly executed pastiche of fuddy-duddy psychedelia, not something to listen to in comparison with the delicious voice of Christine McVie.

Most of the highlights coming, needless to say, from *Rumours*, this was her show. "You Make Loving Fun", "Go Your Own Way", "Don't Stop" and finally a solo, "Songbird", belatedly turned a two-and-a-quarter-hour show into something more than the sum of its parts.

JASPER REES



Stevie Nicks of Fleetwood Mac: role severely underplayed

## THEATRE

Half Gods  
Lyceum, Edinburgh

THE drama programme of this year's Edinburgh Festival ends not with a bang but a gurgle in Hideki Noda's *Half Gods*, much of which takes place down the plug hole of a bath. *Half Gods* is based on a story of Siamese twins whom the monsters of a spirit world want to recapture for their dimension. The twins live in a lighthouse with a tutor who helps them thwart the monsters. But at the end of Act 1 the twins fall ill and are operated on to separate them, even though

one will die as they only have one heart between them. In Act II the tutor and the surviving twin go in search of the other one down the plug hole and find her at the ends of the earth.

Perhaps some riddles culled from the play will provide a flavour of the piece. If water swirls anti-clockwise from a bath in the southern hemisphere and clockwise in the northern hemisphere, how will it drain away from the equator? What walks on four legs then on two legs and then on three legs? That one is easy, being the riddle the Sphinx asked of Oedipus. But what has it to do with the following equation: a half plus a half equals two over four? Well, one equals the head and two

equals the legs, while two over four equals Siamese twins and is also the time signature for the tango.

A programme note tells us that Noda is interested in form and not content, and that his style is popular with the young who flick through comic books and switch from channel to channel on television. Noda's hope was that the physical nature of the piece would transcend language barriers. It does not, and judging from the gales of laughter from the Japanese in the audience, the British missed most of the play. What is happening on stage is energetic, colourful, athletic, occasionally beautiful but utterly empty.

The play is full of messages, none of them engaging. Noda ends with an image of loneliness as the twins are separated to become one. It is a genuinely affecting moment but only because Akiko Takishita and Aya Enjōji as the twins have risen above the nonsense around them to provide their characters with dramatic interest.

Watching the play is like being completely excluded from a private party. Noda, we are told, can be glimpsed on stage laughing at a society that allows him to remain a Peter Pan indulging in fun and madness. At least someone is enjoying himself.

ALASDAIR CAMERON

## THEATRE

The Evil Doers  
Bush

CHRIS Hannan calls his gorgeously enjoyable play a contemporary city comedy. He sets it in Glasgow, a place the Elizabethan playwrights who created the genre of city comedy probably never knew existed.

Hannan covers the ground ably, setting his first scenes against backdrops of Clydeside scaffolding before taking his six characters off to look at an Etruscan pot in what Danny (Tom Mannion), the bizarrely patriotic taxi driver, naturally calls "the world-famous Burrell Collection". Next they all turn up beside a vast warehouse where Danny's long-suffering daughter Tracky (Sharon Muircroft) makes off with a taxi's tyres. At last they find themselves outside a Bank of Scotland cash

dispenser trying to pay off the loan shark who has been after them all day.

As in the comedies of Jonson and Middleton, the hunt for money gives the play its structure. Like them also, Hannan owns a penetrating eye for tricks of

character and an equally sharp ear for quirky talk. When Tex, the smooth young shark, asks if Danny knows who he is, he receives the reply, like scores of similarly revealing lines: "Not to my knowledge, unless you're who I think you are." This line takes us

directly into the mad muddle of Danny's mind.

Simon Usher's sizzling direction is alert to a wide range in mood which encompasses, as well as comedy, the pains and joys of schoolgirls, the discontents of adolescence and the ever-lurking risk of physical damage. The performances contain many naturalistic touches. Alison Peebles, playing Danny's wife, reduces her lipstick after every gulp of whisky, but Usher also, with tongue in cheek, bathes Susan in a rose light when love beckons.

In this world of uncertain egos, where the characters bounce off each other like bumper cars, powered by sources beyond their control, the actors project the battlement with tremendous spirit. "Marvellous, your language," coos Lucy Aston's journalist, up from Andover to study the natives. The phrase is patronising but the sentiment is spot on.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Sharon Muircroft (Tracky) and Alison Peebles (Agnes)

## DANCE

Coppelia  
Playhouse, Edinburgh

WHAT on earth was this production of Coppelia doing at an important international festival? Delibes' music for the ballet remained, although with some dances transposed, but it was not well played. The Scottish Philharmonic Orchestra was so far below the form it showed for Shostakovich in *The Overcoat*

(this company's earlier Edinburgh Festival offering), that the blame must presumably lie with Dwight Otman's conducting or the liberties which Dennis Nahat's production takes with tempi.

Nahat and his former colleague, the late Ian Horvath, have chopped and changed the story somewhat, to no great apparent purpose, although much ingenuity must have gone into compiling a cast list of new characters. They include a batch of older characters who all overact madly, which draws attention to the lack of acting from the dancers, who

themselves mostly concentrate on their toothpaste smiles and their steps.

Nahat has given them lots of steps, but these are not arranged to any purpose and consequently do not build to climaxes. He has also arranged the mime so disjointedly and often at such a lick, that it makes little sense.

Why bother, then, to bring in Rudolf Nureyev to play Dr Coppelia? Well, it sold the seats: and in a better production this could be an excellent role for him. Dancing the role for the first time, he plays against the grain of this

version in Act III, resisting the sickly sweet reconciliation that seems called for, and maintaining his grumpy manner even to the end.

The dancers of the Cleveland San José Ballet are able as well as energetic. Raymond Rodriguez, the first of three casts as Franz, could be more than that, with an outstanding technique. I assume that the tendency to feyness in his acting is occasioned by the production. David Guthrie's designs fit the production ideally.

JOHN PERCIVAL

## NEW RELEASES

**THE BIG MAN (18)**: David Leland's overwrought version of William McGonagall's novel about a Scottish aristocrat sucked into the dark-knuckled boxing and Glasgow's underworld. Notable performance from Liam Neeson, who also does the music. (Cinema: West End (01-930 5322/7615).)

**BREAKING IN (15)**: Over-the-top comedy from Bill Forsyth and writer John Sayles, with Bill Forsyth as an ageing burger teaching a youngster the tricks of the trade. (Cinema: Haymarket (01-930 1527) Oxford Street (01-436 0310).)

**COMMON THREADS: STORIES FROM THE QUIET** (18): Robert Egan and Jeffrey Friedman's moving documentary about five Americans who died of AIDS. (Cinema: ICA (01-436 0310).)

**THE GUARDIAN (18)**: Laughable supernatural yarn from Etonian director William Friedkin, with Jenny Seagrove as a witch who sacrifices herself to a malevolent tree. (Cinema: Baker Street (01-930 9772) Rotten Row (01-436 0310) Tottenham Court Road (01-436 0310) Piccadilly (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol  $\Phi$  on release across the country.

**DARK HABITS (15)**: Shallow, foot-angling indie from the early Eighties by the newly fashionable Pedro Almodóvar, set in a convent where anything goes. (Cinema: ICA (01-436 0310).

**CONTRA PARADOX (PG)**: Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian town, an appealing take on the genre. (Cinema: Haymarket (01-930 1527) Rotten Row (01-436 0310) Piccadilly (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS (15)**: Woody Allen's engaging portrait of a man who writes and directs, engaging comedy from Allen and Alan Alda. (Cinema: Haymarket (01-930 1527) Rotten Row (01-436 0310) Piccadilly (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**CRY-BABY (12)**: John Waters' frenetic musical-comedy satire to the genre's delight, a take on the end of the world. (Cinema: Haymarket (01-930 1527) Rotten Row (01-436 0310) Piccadilly (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**DAYS OF THUNDER (12)**: Stock-car racing drama from the brains behind Top Gun, heavy on race-track action and Tom Cruise's cocky grin, weak on originality. (Cinema: Fulham Road (01-370 2638) Empire (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**DICK TRACY (PG)**: The blockbuster of the year — dazzling to look at, though director John Dahl's style does little to breathe life into the comic-book detective. (Cinema: Haymarket (01-930 1527) Rotten Row (01-436 0310) Piccadilly (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**DIE HARD 2 (15)**: Action-packed but relatively safe sequel to an already absurd original. (Cinema: Haymarket (01-930 1527) Rotten Row (01-436 0310) Piccadilly (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

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**THE BIG MAN (18)**: David Leland's overwrought version of William McGonagall's novel about a Scottish aristocrat sucked into the dark-knuckled boxing and Glasgow's underworld. Notable performance from Liam Neeson, who also does the music. (Cinema: West End (01-930 5322/7615).)

**BREAKING IN (15)**: Over-the-top comedy from Bill Forsyth and writer John Sayles, with Bill Forsyth as an ageing burger teaching a youngster the tricks of the trade. (Cinema: Haymarket (01-930 1527) Oxford Street (01-436 0310).

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## INTERNAL AFFAIRS (18): Tied for

given some kick by British Director Mike Figgis. Starring Richard Gere and Andy Garcia. (Cinema: Fulham Road (01-370 2638) Empire (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**MEN DON'T LEAVE (15)**: Archaic tale of a valiant widow (Jessica Lange) weathering marital and emotional storms. (Cinema: Fulham Road (01-370 2638) Empire (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**MONSIEUR HIRE (15)**: Palance Leone's misadventure, a slight version of Scorsese's novel about a bachelor's dark obsession with his neighbour's sinister scheming by director Palance Leone. (Cinema: Fulham Road (01-370 2638) Empire (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**ROMAULO AND JULIETTE (12)**: Coline Serreau's social comedy, low-keyed, but with dazzling performances from Roma and Juliette. (Cinema: Fulham Road (01-370 2638) Empire (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**A TALE OF SPRINGTIME (10)**: Eric Rohmer's subtitled study of the games people play, with Florence Darel and Anne Teyssie. A crowd delight. (Cinema: Fulham Road (01-370 2638) Empire (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**THE ME UP THE ME DOWN (18)**: Spicy extravaganza from Spain's Pedro Almodóvar. (Cinema: Fulham Road (01-370 2638) Empire (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**WHERE THE HEART IS (15)**: John Boorman's allegorical comedy with Dabney Coleman as a tycoon who ends up with the family in a Brooklyn apartment. (Cinema: Fulham Road (01-370 2638) Empire (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**WILD AT HEART (18)**: David Lynch's rocking tale of a psychotic and a sexual predator, the same ingredients as *Blue Velvet*, though the results are far more inconsequential. (Cinema: Fulham Road (01-370 2638) Empire (01-436 0310) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

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## TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

COMPILED BY GILLIAN MAXEY AND ANNETTE BRUNING  
TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WATKINS/RADIO CHOICE KENNETH COSLING

## BBC 1

- 6.00 Caelex  
6.30 Breakfast News with Nicholas  
Witchell and Laurie Meyer 8.55  
Regional News and weather  
9.00 News and weather followed by  
The Odd Couple, American comedy series  
9.30 Best of British, Romantic moments  
from 50 years of Rank films (r)  
9.55 The Travel Show Traveler, John  
Thirlwell visits St Petersburg Beach in  
Florida (r)  
10.00 News and weather followed by The  
Pink Panther Show  
10.25 Playdays (r) 10.50 Crystal Tipps  
and Alfie  
10.55 Five to Eleven, Actor Freddie Jones  
reads nature poems by the early 19th-  
century poet, John Clare (r)  
11.00 News and weather followed by  
Hudson and Wells. The culinary duo are  
joined by Lynsey de Paul as they try  
out unusual pizza recipes (r)  
11.30 Wildlife Safari to the Argentine:  
The High Andes. The first in a series of  
daily programmes on zoological  
exploration. The programme starts at  
16,000ft where the climate is  
particularly severe (r)  
11.55 The Historyman. Bryan McNamery  
retraces the path of the Culworth  
highwaymen to the galleys (r)  
12.00 News and weather followed by The  
Garden Party. One of the Soviet Union's  
leading commentators, Vladimir  
Pozner, tries to discuss whether  
perestroika can really work 12.55  
Regional News and weather

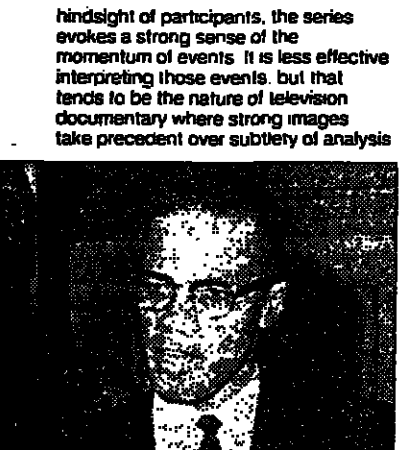
## BBC 2

- 7.10 Open University: Head Start:  
Children of the Dream. Ends 7.35  
9.00 Film: From This Day Forward (1946,  
b/w). A sentimental, though realistic,  
portrayal of an American couple,  
played by Joan Fontaine and Mark  
Stevens, reuniting to life after the  
second world war. Directed by John  
Berry  
10.35 Film: The Tolest of New York (1937,  
b/w). Fictionalised biography, starring  
Edward Arnold as Jimmie, the  
financier who became a Wall Street  
tycoon after the American civil war.  
Cary Grant plays the partner who helped  
him reach the pinnacle of his  
success, but who could not prevent his  
eventual downfall. Film  
performances, particularly by Arnold.  
Directed by Rowland V. Lee  
12.00 Look, Stranger: Percherons to the  
Plough. A profile of an English farmer,  
Edward Smith, who still prefers to  
use farm horses (r)  
12.45 Songs of Prisons. Pam Rhodes visits  
the Cornish village of Polperro  
(r). (Caelex)  
1.20 Bertha. Animation, narrated by Roy  
Kinnear (r)  
1.35 The Sky at Night: The Unravelling  
of Venus. Patrick Moore and Dr Peter  
Cattermole outline some of the  
mysteries it has helped the radar-carrying  
spacecraft Magellan to solve as it  
orbits this uncharitable planet (r)  
1.55 Birmingham to London in Five  
Minutes. High-speed film following the  
inter-city train journey between  
Birmingham and London (r)  
2.00 News and weather followed by  
Trades Union Conference 1990. The  
unions' attitude to the Conservative  
government's legislation to curb their  
powers is one of the key issues the  
TUC is debating this week in Blackpool.  
Should all such laws be repealed, or  
more limited changes be presented



Fetal mistakes: Saddam Hussein (9.30pm)

- 2.00 News with Philip Hayton. Weather  
2.30 Neighbours. (Caelex)  
3.00 Faintly in Pursuit of... Faintly, Nigel  
Faintly meets people who are not  
content to remain among the ranks  
of the ordinary (r). (Caelex)  
3.20 The \$1 Million Dollar Man  
3.30 Adventure, Ring of Fire: Here Be  
Dragons. Lorne and Lawrence Blair's  
discovery of enormous carnivorous  
lizards on the remote island of Komodo  
(r). (Caelex)  
3.35 Newsweek. Comedy series  
set in a classroom of gifted students  
4.00 Poppy Double Bill (r)  
4.10 The New Lassie. (Caelex) 4.35  
Ewoks (r) 5.00 Newsworld 5.10 Expo.  
Johnny Ball visits the Kon-Tiki  
Museum in Oslo, Norway, dedicated to  
the adventurer Thor Heyerdahl.  
(Caelex)  
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Caelex). Northern  
Ireland. Inside Ulster. Sports and  
6.00 News with Peter Sissons and Chris  
Lowe. Weather  
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Wales:  
Wales Today; Northern Ireland:  
Neighbours  
7.00 Wogan. Tonight's guests are  
footballer Paul Gascoigne and film  
producer David Puttnam  
7.30 Matched. Loyd Grossman  
continues his quest for the nation's best  
amateur chef. Photographer Patrick  
Lichfield and chef Raymond Blanc help  
to judge the first semi-final. (Caelex)  
8.00 Telly Addicts. Noel Edmonds returns  
to ask the questions on television  
programmes old and new  
8.30 Also, 'Alot (Caelex)



Preaching black power: Malcolm X (8.05pm)

- by Vivian White, Nick Jones and Ian  
Smith. Includes at 8.00 News and  
Weather, and at 8.50 News and  
weather followed by Regional News  
5.00 Film: A Dangerous Profession  
(1949, b/w). A sentimental, though realistic,  
portrayal of an American couple,  
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## ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am  
6.25 Jeopardy! A new daily quiz, hosted  
by Chris Donohue, in which contestants are  
given the answers, and have to  
supply the questions 9.55 Thames  
News and weather  
10.00 The Time... The Place... Mike  
Scott returns with a new series of the  
topical discussion programme  
10.40 This Morning. The return of the  
family-oriented daily magazine show  
hosted by Judy Finnigan and  
Richard Madeley. Sally Bowman and  
Ross Kelly start the morning on a  
strenuous note by road-testing the new  
Krypton Factor assault course, and  
actress Susan George pops in for a  
chat. Each day this week beauty  
expert Liz Earle will be reporting from  
Paris on the new collections.  
Includes at 10.55 News headlines 11.55  
Thames News  
12.05 Rose and Jim  
12.25 Home and Away 12.55 Thames  
News and weather  
1.00 News at One with John Suchet.  
Weather  
1.20 Thames Help. Jackie Sprockley and  
John Murray launch a new weekly  
lunchtime edition of the community  
programme. This programme examines  
the need for more money donors.  
1.50 A Country Practice 2.20 Magnum.  
Tom Selleck stars as the Hawaii-based  
private detective 3.15 News  
headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines  
3.25 Families

- 3.55 Bugs Bunny and Friends 4.15 The  
Sooty Show 4.40 Children's Ward.  
Children's drama (Oracle) 5.10  
Who's the Boss?  
5.40 News with Sue Carpenier. Weather  
5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Sprockley  
continues the theme of kidney donors,  
and the anxieties of people waiting  
for a suitable replacement organ  
6.00 Home and Away (r) 6.25 Thames  
News and weather  
7.00 The Krypton Factor: Group A. Heat  
One. Gordon Burns presents a new  
series of the tough quiz which  
combines mental skills with physical  
agility. A new look assault course  
and an observation film and two of  
the challenges for this week's four  
contestants (Oracle)  
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)  
8.00 Blind Faith. Concluding the two-part  
drama based on the true story of the  
murder of Mans Marshall, whose  
husband may or may not have been  
involved in his death. Starring  
Robert Urich and Joanna Kerns (Oracle)  
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet  
and Trevor McDonald. Weather 10.30  
Thames News and weather  
10.40 Thames Special: The Blitz. Denis  
Tuohy narrates a film to mark the fiftieth  
anniversary of the Luftwaffe assault  
on London which started on September  
7, 1940. Although more than 20,000  
people were killed, the spirit of  
Londoners remained high. The story  
of heroism and horror is told with a  
combination of first-hand accounts  
from the British and German sides and  
archive footage

- 11.40 Film: Plunge into Darkness (1977).  
The lonely menace of the outbreak forms  
the setting for this Australian  
television thriller. A couple's brief holiday  
in the country becomes a nightmare  
when they come across a murdered  
family and their cat breaks down.  
Forced to seek help on foot, the  
husband meets the family's  
assaults and unwittingly directs them  
towards his stranded wife (Orla  
Hannett). Directed by Peter Maxwell  
1.00 Sportsworld Extra. Tony Francis  
introduces highlights of the Ebel  
European Masters golf tournament  
from Crans-sur-Saane in Switzerland.  
Plus a round-up of the weekend's  
football, from the first division and  
abroad  
2.00 Film: The Woman of My Life (1966)  
An intense study of alcoholism in which  
Christopher Maltby plays a gifted  
violinist in an orchestra created and  
managed by his strong-willed wife  
(Jane Birkin). Driven to drink by the  
pressures of the job and a loss of  
confidence in his own abilities, he  
collapses on stage during a  
concert. Jean-Louis Trintignant  
plays the ex-alcoholic who helps the  
musician to recover. A French film with  
English dialogue. Directed by Regis  
Wargnier  
4.00 Three's Company. Jack and Janet  
try to defend Andy against the  
unwanted attentions of a rich  
admirer. Starring John Ritter  
4.30 Grand Ole Opry (r)  
5.00 ITN Morning News with Anne  
Lauchers. Ends 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Noah's Ark: Fauna of the  
Jungle (r)  
6.20 Business Daily  
6.30 The Channel 4 Daily  
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Scenes of  
natural beauty set to music  
11.00 As It Happens. Victoria Studd takes  
a rooming house on a tour of St George's  
Hospital in Tooting, south London  
12.00 Anything Goes. A tour of Britain's  
tourist attractions, including the Channel  
Islands, the villages of Herefordshire  
and the resort of Scarborough  
12.30 Business Daily  
1.00 Sesame Street (r)  
2.00 In Charge: A Commitment to  
Quality. The Open College series  
examining the work of the supervisor  
and how it can be improved, concludes  
with an examination of quality  
programme training, which determines  
the value of what customers buy and  
use. (Teletext)  
2.30 Film: Warned for Murder (1946,  
b/w). Eric Portman, a fine actor who  
often brought a disturbing quality to  
his parts, stars as the insane  
descendant of Queen Victoria's  
public hangman who designs to  
strangle women. He falls in love  
with Dulcie Gray, but his lunacy brings  
his thoughts back to strangulation.  
Directed by Laurence Huntington  
4.25 What the Eye Doesn't See. Czech  
puppet animation  
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley hosts  
the words and numbers game show  
5.00 TV101. Highly-praised series about  
an ex-journalist who returns to his high  
school to teach media skills in his  
own unorthodox way  
6.00 The Stars: Secrets of the Sun.  
Heather Cooper continues her analysis  
of the stars. The sun is only just  
near enough to be studied in detail and  
has provided much information, but  
mysteries still remain. (Teletext)

- 6.30 Happy Days. Fonzie the Father.  
American comedy series set in the  
Fifties. Starring Henry Winkler  
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow  
7.50 Comment followed by weather  
8.00 Brookside. (Teletext)  
8.30 Don't Quote Me. Light-hearted show  
in which celebrities are challenged on  
their knowledge of quotations.  
Joining host Geoffrey Perkins are Clive  
Anderson, Jane Wollman, Paul  
Boasting MP, and Sheila Steafel  
9.00 Out on Sunday. Gay Pines in the  
Church.  
● CHOICE. The Church of England  
has got itself into such a tangle over  
homosexual priests that it must  
sometimes resort to divine intervention to  
remove the issue from its agenda.  
Meanwhile the debate rages on, with  
apparently little prospect of  
reconciling the opposing factions. Tim  
Cooper's report represents the  
argument as essentially one between  
the values of what customers buy and  
use. (Teletext)  
2.30 Film: Warned for Murder (1946,  
b/w). Eric Portman, a fine actor who  
often brought a disturbing quality to  
his parts, stars as the insane  
descendant of Queen Victoria's  
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Out of her time: Jennifer Kendal (10.30pm)

- Calcutta who comes gradually to  
realise that India is no longer the place  
for her. This disillusionment is  
brought on by the manipulations of a  
former pupil and her boyfriend, who  
shamelessly prey on the woman's good  
nature. Over pressures, including  
the death of her brother and the wish  
to leave a less fulfilling job, make her think  
again about joining her niece in  
Australia. It is a subtle,  
unsentimental but affectionate study,  
given marvellously credible  
substance by the performance of the  
late Jennifer Kendal. We are made to  
feel sympathy towards a woman who is  
being cheated and rejected. At the same time we are left in  
no doubt that she has become  
frozen in the past and must either  
change or move on  
12.35am Film: The Rock (1936, b/w). A  
rare showing of the first Irish sound  
feature, which was written by its  
cast and charts the story of three  
generations of Irish families involved in  
the Troubles. The climax is reached in  
1919 when Brian Malone (Brian  
O'Sullivan) is expelled from the IRA,  
joins the Royal Irish Constabulary  
and is soon on the trail of his former  
comrades. Thomas G. Cooper co-  
directs, and takes a leading role.  
Ends 2.15

## RADIO 1

- FM and MW  
6.00am Gary Kemp 6.30 Simon Mayo  
6.50 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsweek  
12.45 Gary Davies 3.00pm Simon Mayo  
3.15 The Afternoon Show 5.00pm John  
Brannan 7.30 The Mike Reid  
Connection 8.30pm John Peel 10.00pm  
Campbell 12.05pm 12.50pm Sue Harris

## RADIO 2

- FM stereo  
News on the hour  
4.00am Alan Lester 5.30 Chris Stuart  
7.30 Derek James 8.30 Johnnie Walker  
11.00am Young 11.30am News  
12.00pm Johnnie Walker 1.00pm  
Jacobs 2.00pm Johnnie Walker 4.00pm  
Howard 5.00pm Johnnie Walker 7.00pm  
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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-24  
● AEROSPACE REPORT 25-30  
● DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES 31-33  
● SPORT 35-40

# BUSINESS

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3 1990

City Editor  
John Bell

## Poll tax debt rules 'may hit industry'

By OUR CITY STAFF

REGULATIONS requiring companies to deduct unpaid poll tax from up to 2 million employees will pose administrative problems and could harm industrial relations, the CBI has said.

Under new government rules, local authorities will advise companies on the total debt owed by defaulting employees and expect employers to calculate the deductions. The environment department has proposed that employers should charge defaulters £1 for each deduction, "which will not meet all the costs involved", the CBI said.

In an attempt to simplify the arrangements, the CBI is to send a report to Chris Patten, the environment secretary, later this month, outlining its ideas on how the payments should be collected.

The report has been drawn up by a CBI working party chaired by John Pollard, a lawyer and CBI council member. "As things stand, attachment (of earnings) orders may be obtained by any one of Britain's 367 local authorities," he said.

"Multi-site companies could easily be dealing with as many as 250 authorities," Mr Pollard added. "Small firms, whose resources are small, have also expressed reservations."

British employers already handle about 50,000 attachment of earnings orders - mainly for civil debts - each year.

## Task force to search for Rothwells head's assets

A LEGAL task force set up by the West Australian government will this week start an international search for missing assets of Rothwells Ltd, the failed financier.

The task force will be headed by Malcolm McCusker, QC, whose report into the collapse of Rothwells was tabled in parliament last week. The task force will search for assets of Laurie Connell, the founder and former chairman of Rothwells.

The McCusker Report revealed that Mr Connell borrowed about Aus\$500 million (£215 million) from Rothwells before his collapse in 1988 but the borrowings were never openly declared. The loans, the report said, were one of the principal reasons for the former merchant bank's collapse.

But at the weekend, Mr Connell repeated his call for a Royal Commission to investigate West Australian government business deals after studying the report. Mr Connell was believed to have been in his Perth offices with his lawyers analysing the report over the weekend.

Meanwhile, Ian Ferrier, the liquidator of Rothwells, gave warning yesterday that more people might face charges in connection with Rothwells dealings.

### THE POUND

#### CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar 1.9300 (-0.0510)  
W German mark 2.9833 (-0.0465)  
Exchange index 95.0 (-2.0)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1693.6 (+76.8)  
FT-SE 100 2162.8 (+76.4)  
New York Dow Jones 2614.36 (+81.44)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 25978.37 (+1812.61)

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.170	2.140
Belgium F	63.80	63.80
Canada \$	2.276	2.266
Denmark Kr	1.131	1.116
France F	10.25	9.95
Germany DM	1.93	1.92
Greece Dr	16.33	16.33
Hong Kong \$	1.03	1.02
Ireland P	2.00	2.00
Italy Lira	207.50	207.50
Japan Yen	347.5	347.5
Netherlands Gld	3.75	3.75
Norway Kr	2.73	2.73
Portugal Esc	205	205
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	10.36	10.36
Switzerland F	2.50	2.50
Turkey Lira	1.25	1.25
USA \$	1.93	1.93
Yugoslavia Din	25.50	25.50

Prices for foreign currencies are based on the Bank of England's official rates. The pound sterling is the base unit. All rates are for 100 units of the foreign currency. Source: Reuters. Last updated: 12.00 (GMT)

OS

## Question mark over Holmes à Court media bids

From BRIAN BUCHANAN IN SYDNEY

THE death of Mr Robert Holmes à Court, nicknamed "the Great Acquirer" and listed as Australia's richest man before the 1987 market crash, has left question marks over a number of deals.

He will probably best be remembered for his daring raids on both Australian and overseas companies in the 1970s and 1980s and for his attempt to take control of BHP, Australia's biggest company.

Mr Holmes à Court was at first believed to have been almost wiped out in the 1987 crash but it has become clear he retained much of

his personal wealth, estimated to be more than Aus\$800 million (£344.8 million). Through his private company, Heytesbury, he had become one of the country's largest pastoral landlords, owning 1 per cent of the country's land.

Heytesbury last night said his wife, Janet Holmes à Court, would take control of the company and her son Peter, aged 22, would assist her with senior managers. Mr Holmes à Court, who was aged 53, returned to Perth ten days ago from a business trip to London. Mr John Poynton, the chairman of the Australian stock exchange in Perth, said Mr Holmes à Court's death was a huge loss. He said the businessman was a cau-

tious, clever, strategic thinker whom people took seriously.

Two deals left hanging are an apparent move on John Fairfax, the troubled Australian media empire, and a bid for the Perth afternoon newspaper, the *Daily News*. The paper is 49 per cent-owned by a company controlled by Mr Alan Bond, his long-time rival.

Mr Holmes à Court had been buying up American junk bonds of John Fairfax and, one report said, had a stake worth Aus\$8 million on paper but bought at half that price.

The jewel of his varied off-shore interests was the British Stoll Moss theatre chain. Stoll Moss was owned by Heytesbury and controls 13 of the

biggest theatres in London. The company took a 4.2 per cent stake in Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group in March and quickly built this to 6.6 per cent. Mr Holmes à Court was believed to be trying to buy the recently refurbished Palace Theatre, owned by RUG.

His other British interests were in Como International, a joint-venture company. Carisbrook Holdings (UK), his international investment vehicle, was an equal partner in it with the French company Société Nationale Elf Aquitaine. Como International, in turn, had a 5.2 per cent stake in the agriculture group Dalgety.

Mr Holmes à Court was at one

time an extremely active investor in British companies and more than one British chairman worried that he might put his company into play.

Before the market crash, he built stakes in Sears, the retail group. Peachey, the property company. Dewey Warren and Willis Faber, the insurance groups, and Morgan Crucible, the industrial components group, and had a 15 per cent stake in Standard Chartered, which made him deputy chairman. More recently, he was involved in a rescue bid for the left wing magazine, *New Statesman* and *Society* but pulled out without buying the publication.

Obituary, page 12

## Eurotunnel call may clash with disco sale

By JOHN BELL, CITY EDITOR

BANKERS to Eurotunnel, who meet this week in an attempt to break the financial deadlock over the project, are running into further problems over the timing of the planned privatisation of the electricity distribution companies.

The target date for completing the syndication of a further £2 billion of loans from the group's 210 banking supporters passed on Saturday with about £750 million to be found.

Unless the shortfall is made up in the next few weeks, the £500 million rights issue, an essential part of the further financing operations, will run into the disco flotation which is planned for November 21.

The flotation will take almost £5 billion from the pool of cash available for equity investment. Eurotunnel's financial advisers are likely to tell Alastair Morton, the chief executive, that unless the rights issue has been completed well before the disco sale, it will have to be delayed for several months.

Launching a difficult rights issue so close to Christmas is thought to run an unacceptably high risk of failure. If Eurotunnel fails to raise the additional tranche of equity the whole financing exercise will have to be delayed until at least February.

Provided the banks permit it to be drawn, Eurotunnel has already raised sufficient funds to allow construction to proceed until mid-1992, when the two train tunnels and the service tunnel will be complete. But there is insufficient cash to finish fitting-out.

On Friday, the lead banks agreed to a further waiver of the condition that full finance should be in place at all times. This allows Eurotunnel to draw down funds to continue until mid-September.

Wednesday's meeting will consider a number of options aimed at persuading Japanese banks, strong supporters of the project in its early stages, to meet a shortfall caused by the withdrawal of smaller continental and American banks.

Eurotunnel's board has been working hard through a series of presentations in Japan to overcome Japanese suspicions that the British government has cooled in its enthusiasm for the project.

Government efforts to correct the impression that it has changed its attitude to the tunnel have been made via diplomats in Tokyo. Three weeks ago, Mrs Thatcher took the unusual step of writing to the Japanese prime minister stressing the economic and strategic value of the tunnel for Europe in general and Britain in particular.

## GrandMet in fight to save Elders swap

By JONATHAN PRYNN

GRAND Metropolitan, the food and drinks group, is fighting to save its £2.8 billion pubs-for-breweries swap with Elders, John Elliott's drinks group.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, is expected to announce his decision on the proposed asset swap within the next three weeks, after a succession of meetings between the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, GrandMet and Courage, the brewing group owned by Elders. The swap deal was referred to the commission in April.

The commission is known to be concerned about many aspects of the deal. Its report, now on Mr Lilley's desk, calls for changes to the original proposals. GrandMet, which wants the cash injection from the deal to reduce its debt burden, is willing to make changes, but is prepared to walk away from the deal if it is faced with demands for radical restructuring.

The proposal involved Courage supplying beer exclusively to the 7,000 pubs owned by the GrandMet-managed Intreprenuer Estates for a minimum of five years.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks is the local concentrations of pub owner-

ship that would occur in the southeast and parts of the southwest of England if the deal goes through in its present form.

GrandMet is thought to have proposed concessions that it hopes will allow the deal to proceed in a form that leaves it commercially and financially viable.

The company is under pressure from the City to bring down its 96 per cent level of gearing after the failure of earlier debt reduction schemes. In May, GrandMet shares tumbled on an announcement that it had abandoned plans to sell Alpo, its American petfood business.

If the Courage swap goes ahead, it will reduce gearing to about 70 per cent. If it does not, GrandMet says other interested parties are waiting and they would not face competition problems.

The deal is seen as a test case for last year's commission industry report into the beerage. The commission is anxious that the swap should not be seen as an elaborate side-stepping of earlier recommendations.

Last year, it blocked an Elders attempt to take over Scottish & Newcastle, partly on the grounds that two companies would have control of 40 per cent of British

beer production. In its present form, the Intreprenuer deal would put about 41 per cent of the market into the hands of Bass and Courage.

John Spicer, a Kleinwort Benson brewing analyst, said: "The general feeling is that the initial deal won't go through. The question then is whether the minister will let it through with concessions from GrandMet and Courage."

The two companies are thought to have compromised on the length of the supply contract arrangement between Intreprenuer's pubs and the Courage breweries. Originally planned for 10 years, it was cut to five years just four days before the Office of Fair Trading referred the deal to the commission.

The companies are thought to have offered to cut the contract to three years and sell hundreds of Intreprenuer pubs in order to remain within the spirit of the commission's brewing industry report.

This reduction would cut the value of the breweries being bought by Courage, which, under the current deal, is due to pay GrandMet £366 million.

The report arrived on Mr Lilley's desk on August 21, and the commission is known to have demanded supplementary information.

## Ladbroke to sell hotels

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

LADBROKE, the racing and hotels group, which owns Hilton International, is expected to raise up to £250 million in the next four months from the sale of up to six British hotels, including two Hilton hotels in London.

A further £70 million may be raised by the sale of land in Guam.

The money will be used to fund the development of the Hilton International chain in Britain and abroad. Ladbroke is believed to be selling the 377-room Regents Park Hilton and the 406-room Olympia Hilton.

The two hotels are expected to fetch £200,000 a room giving the group more than £150 million. In addition Ladbroke is considering selling three or four of its regional hotels which could bring in a further £100 million.

Ladbroke's philosophy is to manage the hotel chain as a property business, updating

the 146-strong hotel portfolio and taking capital gains on some assets to fund the development of others.

Michael Hirst, chairman and chief executive of Hilton International, says his strategy is to balance the portfolio locally, nationally and internationally.

"It makes sense to take profits sometimes," he says. "What is the good of capital



Hirst: taking profits

appreciation if you never take it?" He says the Regents Park Hilton was worth £30,000 a room in 1979 and is now worth about £200,000 a room.

The opening of the 400-room Langham Hilton in the West End, the group's new London flagship, next year and the upgrading of the 600-room Kensington Hilton mean that it makes sense to dispose of the Olympia and Regents Park Hiltons. The Park Lane Hilton will stay in the group's portfolio.

In addition to the Langham Hilton, new Hiltons are opening in Glasgow and at East Midlands airport in the next 18 months.

Overseas the group is opening Hiltons under management contract in Bali, Kyong Ju in Korea, and Izmir, Turkey. The group is seeking to develop city centre hotels in Madrid, Berlin, Frankfurt, Rome, Zurich and Mexico City on land already owned by Ladbroke.

## Atkinson forges ahead



Stealing a march on the continentals: Michael Reffitt of Octavius Atkinson

TAYLOR Woodrow will this week start production at a £15 million structural steel factory in Yorkshire (Derek Harris writes).

The factory will be the largest single manufacturing unit of its type in Britain and will aim to set new competitive standards in Europe.

Michael Reffitt, deputy chairman of Octavius Atkinson, a Taylor Woodrow subsidiary, said: "Difficult as some European markets are to penetrate, we will have the advantage because our new production costs will be lower than our competitors."

"The market in Britain is tight but I have no worry now about work. We could go for a 5 per cent profit when others would be struggling at the same tender levels to be keeping to a 5 per cent loss."

There will be a ceremonial start-up of production on Wednesday by Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, which will be supplying Atkinson with its raw materials to be cut, shaped, and drilled to create the skeletons for office blocks and other large buildings.

Steel will be delivered by road on a just-in-time basis to the factory on a 37-acre site at

Flaxby Moor, near Harrogate. When full production rates are achieved in October, output will be 50 per cent higher than at Atkinson's Harrogate factory. Annual throughput is targeted initially at 35,000 tonnes.

Steel structures of up to 60 tonnes will be made up as they pass along a computer-controlled handling system. Machine tools have been brought in from around the world, including America, France, Italy, Japan, Holland and Sweden. The first order will be part of a £16.5 million contract for Toyota's new car plant in Derbyshire.

## P-E to study Czechoslovak privatisation

POLYTECHNA, the Czechoslovak foreign trade corporation, has asked P-E International, the quoted management and computer consultancy group, to carry out a study into the privatisation of Czechoslovak state-owned companies.

The project is one of a number P-E is undertaking in eastern Europe, including consultancy work in Yugoslavia and Hungary.

The group expects to announce next week interim pre-tax profits of about £2.7 million (£2.43 million) on turnover of £32 million.

## Western companies begin to swamp faltering East at Leipzig

## Fair reflection of two Germanies

From WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN LEIPZIG

FEW events symbolise the decline of the East German economy as well as the trade fair in Leipzig. The seven-day fair, the oldest in the world, is celebrating its 825th anniversary, but there is little cause for celebration when it opened yesterday.

Lothar de Maizière, the East German prime minister, opened the bi-annual fair, under the direction of the East German government for the last time. The number of East German companies involved dwindled from 1,800 last year to 1,000 as the price for a stand more than doubled and the country faces an economic crisis.

The West Germans were represented by 1,500 companies, four times as many as last year, and occupied the biggest stands.

Herr de Maizière said that the purpose of the fair was no longer "representation but investment". He has had to admit that economic reforms are more painful than expected. "I think it will take some three to four years until the programme will provide jobs and good living standards for everyone in the country,"

he said, only two months after his pledge that no one would suffer as a result of unification.

Whatever the long-term outcome of the process, a further decline of East Germany's industry is inevitable. More than 2,000 of the country's 8,000 state-owned companies are expected to go out of business during the next six months and unemployment, currently about a million, will at least double.

Tyil Necker, president of the German Federation of Industry, said the coming months would be difficult. "The boom will not occur at a touch of a button, but I believe that we will see the beginning of the boom in the first quarter of next year."


Among the 90 British exhibitors at the fair was Barclays Bank, the only British bank to have opened an office in East Berlin. Jürgen Rosenbrock, director of export finance at Barclays' Frankfurt office, said: "British companies are mainly interested in invisible exports but not in trade or investment in manufacturing. They find it frustrating sometimes. When German or Austrian firms are rejected here, they come back and try

again, maybe ten or twelve times. The British try twice and then they withdraw." Barclays hopes that investment from Britain will rise after October 3, the day of unification.

Banks and financial services groups were represented in Leipzig for the first time. The fair was dominated by West German car companies including Mercedes-Benz and Opel, which displayed its full range of cars opposite an angled mirror wall.

East German companies chose a less glamorous approach. Pentacon, the maker of Praktika cameras, and previously one of the country's most successful companies, chose a small stand with a simple display of its few camera types and lenses. Pentacon is now threatened and had to lay off 5,000 workers recently.

The number of East German companies that will be represented in Leipzig next year is likely to dwindle further. But while the Leipzig Fair continues, the players are likely to change even more, with East German functionalism being replaced by Western razzmatazz, as was already apparent yesterday.



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# US market in junk bonds shows signs of collapse

From JOHN DURIE in NEW YORK

AMID the turmoil of the past few weeks in American financial markets, the \$200 billion junk bond market is showing signs of collapse.

Wall Street has earned only \$16.2 million in fees from public junk bond underwriting this year, compared with \$92.5 million in the year ended August last year. Merrill Lynch, the securities house, which attempted to challenge the now-bankrupt Drexel Burnham Lambert securities house for supremacy in the market, has virtually shut its junk bond department with the departure last week of Raymond Minella and Jeffrey Berenson, its two senior executives in the field.

A deal that gave the market some credence early this year but is now also in danger was the purchase of the \$3 billion junk bond portfolio held by Columbia Savings and Loan, the savings and loan institution, by Gordon Investment, the Toronto-based investment group, backed by the Li group of Hong Kong.

Under the terms of the agreement, if the market fell by more than 7.5 per cent, Gordon had the right to pull out of the deal and it has until October 2 to decide whether to proceed.

The deal was promoted as a boost to the junk bond market as it showed that some investment groups saw profit potential left in the market. At the same time, American banks

became more wary about lending for highly leveraged takeovers.

Morgan Stanley has begun liquidating part of its junk bond portfolio, a further sign of the growing lack of faith in the market.

In recent weeks, the heads of the junk bond departments at First Boston and Smith Barney have also been reassigned and PaineWebber is merging its junk bond department with the rest of the bond sales department.

American-backed loans to leveraged takeovers have almost stopped, as bank credit figures this year show. New loans increased only 2.5 per cent in the year to July compared with a 6.3 per cent growth for the same period last year.

Joe Benicovich, the director of high-yield bonds for Salomon Brothers, said last week that the market had fallen only 3.5 per cent in the first three weeks of August. Full-month figures are not yet available.

Last year, new rules imposing tighter credit requirements on savings and loan institutions effectively removed one third of junk bond customers as the industry had been a cheap source of high returns to meet its loan obligations.

But the smart money on Wall Street is now engaged in a fast retreat from the market, indicating the lack of interest from investors in such risky investments.

## Dividends at top firms well ahead of inflation

SHAREHOLDERS of top British companies have enjoyed a dividend bonanza over the past two years, says a Labour Research survey.

Payouts rose 19.2 per cent on average, while inflation was running at no more than 8.3 per cent over the period. Four leading companies, SmithKline Beecham, British Steel, Ford and John Lewis, were excluded from the survey for varying reasons. Of the 46 companies included, 15 had increased their dividend more

than 19.2 per cent, and five by 25 per cent or more. They were BAT Industries (49.3 per cent), Lloyds (44.1 per cent), BOC (25.4 per cent), Hanson (25 per cent) and BTR (25 per cent).

Ford was top in sales-per-worker, with each Ford employee producing £139,661. British Gas workers produced £99,191 and ICI £98,438. British Steel topped the profits-per-worker league with £13,474 followed by RTZ with £13,383.

# Golf shares placed on tee



Driving force at Mill Ride: David Pearl at London Securities' Ascot golf course

LONDON Securities, the property and venture capital group, will this week publish a prospectus inviting individuals and companies to subscribe for shares in a new golf club in Berkshire (Matthew Bond writes).

About 500 shares in the Mill Ride Golf Club, Ascot, are to be issued at a price of £25,000 each, raising £12.5 million before expenses for London Securities. David Pearl, the

chairman, estimates that the 6,740 yard course, designed by Donald Steel and due to be ready for play in spring 1992, has cost almost £10 million to develop.

The shares will not be listed on any exchange, but Smith New Court, the issue sponsor, will match buyers and sellers once all the shares are sold. More than 150 potential buyers have expressed an interest. London Securities is retaining

100 shares in the club, primarily so that it can offer membership to prospective buyers of adjoining residential units.

Last year, 40 shares in the much larger and more established Wentworth club were successfully offered for sale at £800,000 each by Chelsfield, the private company owned by Elliott Bernard.

Just over half the issue was bought by Japanese companies.

## Genentech merger with Roche near

San Francisco - The merger between Genentech Inc and Roche Holdings should be completed by the end of this week, the companies said.

Under a Federal Trade Commission consent decree, Genentech will divest itself of its interest in a partnership to develop a recombinant process to produce ascorbic acid, or vitamin C, and Roche will divest its technology involving the human growth hormone releasing factor.

Genentech's shareholders will receive, for each two shares they own, \$36 in cash and one share of a new redeemable common stock, approved for listing on the New York Stock Exchange. In the next five years, Roche has the right to redeem the outstanding 43 million shares, or 40 per cent, at escalating prices ranging from \$38 a share for the rest of this year to \$60 a share in 1995.

(New York Times)

## Saudi output up 2m barrels a day

FROM REUTERS IN DHAHRAN

SAUDI Arabia has raised oil production to 7.4 million barrels per day (bpd) to help make up the shortfall from Iraq and Kuwait.

"Production was 7.4 million bpd as of Friday. Production is now 2 million bpd more than it was," a government spokesman said.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed at a meeting last week to allow members to increase production above previous quotas. Saudi Arabia's Opec quota before the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq on August 2 was 5.38 million bpd.

The Saudi spokesman said the United Arab Emirates is increasing production by 500,000 bpd, Venezuela by 300,000, Mexico by 200,000, other Opec states by 200,000, and Alaska by 50,000. "This adds up to 3.15 million bpd what was a 3.8 million bpd

shortfall of oil from Iraq and Kuwait," he said.

Oil sources in Saudi Arabia said that production had started to be increased at the beginning of the third week after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Venezuela has set a detailed timetable for increasing oil production between now and the end of the year after the Opec meeting agreed to allow members to boost output during the Gulf tension.

The Energy Ministry said it had instructed Petroleos de Venezuela, the state oil company, to raise production between now and the end of the year, when output will be expected to reach 2.49 million bpd. The Energy Ministry said that oil production in September would be 250,000 bpd above the Opec quota, rising to 500,000 barrel increments to 400,000 bpd above quota by December.

## GILT-EDGED

# Rough ride for bonds as history goes into reverse

History may not repeat itself, but can it reverse itself? Despite sterling weakness last week, it looks as if a rise in oil prices and a petrocurrency boost to the pound will be followed by entry to the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System at a relatively high rate and then a general election.

This scenario would be the mirror image of the one that emerged after the oil price collapse of 1986. An examination of that experience suggests the present prospect is highly risky but should ultimately benefit the gilt-edged investor.

The surge in sterling over the past few months and the welcome this received at the Bank of England makes the parallel with 1986 quite fascinating. Despite the clamour for a cut in interest rates, there has been no indication of a change in policy. Moreover, such a shift seems to be out of the question as long as there is a risk of higher price inflation becoming ingrained through higher wage settlements.

The money markets have been kept very tight and overnight rates high, a tactic first used to defend sterling last summer. There has been little sign of intervention in the exchange market and the August figures, published tomorrow, are expected to reveal only a small rise in the official reserves.

This attitude mirrors that of 1986, when Nigel Lawson, then chancellor, allowed a devaluation of the pound to accompany the fall in oil prices, setting the scene for a significant expansion. The pound was then capped at a relatively low level against the mark, under the shadow ERM policy that followed

the Louvre accord of February 1987.

Of course, history rarely reverses itself exactly. In 1986, lower world interest rates were eventually reflected in lower British base rates. This time, higher discount rates in Japan and probably Germany should just limit the scope for base rate cuts. Yet the parallel is instructive.

After a marked improvement in the early Eighties, Britain's relative industrial performance began to deteriorate in 1986 as other countries allowed the fall in oil prices to reduce inflation. At the same time, the fall in energy prices, interest rates and the pound gave Britain's manufacturing companies a tremendous boost. This was reflected in a barrage of good productivity, PSBR and other economic data in the spring of 1987, paving the way for more interest rate cuts and the election victory in June. Base rates were cut again after the stock market collapse in October, as a precaution against recession.

Gilt yields, though subject to large fluctuations, were on a downward trend over this period. The rest of the story is depressingly familiar. The Lawson boom proved very difficult to arrest, even with record real interest rates, and led to a resurgence of inflation. Gilt yields are now much higher than in 1985, despite the mitigating effect of the PSBR surplus.

Judging from this precedent, the gilt market is in for another rough ride as these influences move into reverse. But on balance, these developments should prove favourable. We are likely to see a significant improvement in Britain's rel-

ative inflation performance over the next few months, paving the way for ERM entry at a central parity of DM3 or more.

This will put industrial companies under pressure, meaning that high wage settlements are at the expense of profits and not prices. Although the consumer stands initially to benefit from these moves, which transfer spending power to him from his employer, even he will eventually suffer a loss of confidence as job prospects deteriorate.

The main risk is that this pressure proves too much for firms and a recession ensues, with awkward political implications. The 18-month gap between the fall in oil prices in the winter of 1985-6 and the Conservative victory in June 1987 probably stretches the analogy too far, but carries a clear warning against delaying the next election until spring 1992. A slump on the scale of the Lawson boom is difficult to envisage, but could be on the cards for 1992 if wage settlements fail to respond quickly.

Investors in the gilt market, as elsewhere, have responded defensively, moving shorter in the face of uncertainty. This was entirely appropriate as a short-term strategy. But this shift has served to flatten the yield curve and would only be justified in the longer term if the authorities relaxed interest rates prematurely and allowed a higher rate of inflation to become entrenched. With history reversing itself, the best value is now to be found in the longer maturities.

PETER SPENCER  
Shearson Lehman

## US shops face more gloom

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

AMERICAN retailers, barely out of the summer sales, are bracing themselves for a disappointing Christmas. Rising oil prices are adding millions to their costs while the latest indices show consumer confidence at its lowest since the economic recession of 1982.

Retailers are still discounting heavily and some analysts say store chains cannot withstand prolonged sales' falls. Debts are high and 25 cents of

every \$1 went to pay the bank last year. That figure is now believed to be about 28 cents for each dollar of cash flow - levels not seen for a decade.

Shares in Sears Roebuck, the world's largest store chain, which launched a low-price marketing strategy last year - now viewed by Wall Street as a failure - are just \$2 off their year's low. Analysts have further downgraded profit expectations from stores.

Department stores report a slow start to the traditionally busy autumn, and some an-

alysts expect an even slower Christmas than last year.

Survey compilers say the call-up of military reservists is upsetting consumer confidence and creating uncertainty, which encourages people to worry about the future and cut back on their spending.

Two separate measurements of confidence in August - one taken before President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, the other spread over the month - show the single biggest monthly fall since the 1987 stock market crash.

## SMALLER COMPANIES

# Investors become selective as hint of upturn renews interest in oil companies

THE good news is that the USM at last has a sector which has outperformed the rest of the stock market. The bad news is that the sector has done so by simply standing still.

Predictably, the sector in question is oil and the outperformance of 4.71 per cent since Iraq invaded Kuwait is modest. However, the oil sector as a whole ended August just 2 per cent ahead of the market, despite the flood of money into companies like BP and Shell earlier in the month.

Over the same period, the FT-SE 100 fell 8 per cent and the FTA all-share index fell 11 per cent.

When oil prices peaked at \$32.35 a barrel, USM oil shares moved almost 8 per cent ahead of the rest of the stock market, compared with the oil sector's overall 6.6 per cent outperformance.

The figures are hardly striking, but they do demonstrate that investor interest can return to the moribund smaller companies sector at the merest hint of an upturn in fortunes.

Optimists may draw a parallel between oil prices and interest rates. Should the cost of borrowing show any downward signs, the institutions are ready and waiting in the wings.

But the performance of smaller oil stocks over the past four weeks shows that investors are being selective and backing individual stocks, not the sector as a whole. Some share prices show chunky gains while others have stayed still.

An unlucky few have actually fallen in value. Jim Henderson, oil analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said: "Investors have been looking for quality as well as the benefit of higher oil prices."

Oil majors such as BP and Shell benefit from dearer crude - BP estimates that a \$1 increase per barrel can add \$200 million to pre-tax profits - while sentiment dictates that shares in medium-sized companies, including Enterprise and Lasso, will closely track the price of crude.

But it is arguable that the smaller companies, who focus on marginal assets which the majors prefer not to touch, are the real beneficiaries. Oil which can be retrieved from the ground at a relatively high cost suddenly becomes more attractive.

Higher prices also encourage exploration, which is good news for the stock market's band of oil services companies.

Petroleum enjoyed one of the most substantial gains, peaking at 136p against a pre-invasion 125p, although the shares have fallen back to 128p.

The USM-quoted oil and gas concern has a 3.75 per cent stake in the North Sea block, which includes the Ivanhoe and Rob Roy fields, now both in production, and in Claymore. Peter Everett, managing director of Shell UK Exploration and



Peter Everett: Pict's new chairman

Production between 1984 and 1989, became Pict's chairman in July. Irish-based Aran Energy, up 54p to 534p, has attracted interest because of its North Sea holdings, including a 3 per cent stake in the Alba field and a 15 per cent interest in Gryphon. Alba is in block 16/26 which also contains the Kilda gas field.

Midland and Scottish Resources, the offshore drilling and production services company, moved 5p ahead to 143p, despite the uncertainty of a 9.4 per cent stake which was formerly held by British and Commonwealth and is now in the hands of the administrators.

Cairn Energy, which owns a clutch of American gas assets, remained up 2p at 325p despite reporting interim net losses of £582,516. This compared with profits of £643,616 for the first six months of last year.

Losers included Richmond Oil and Gas, down 5p to 143p, Kingston, off 10p at 116p, and Crossroads, which outperformed the FTA all-share index by 143 per cent during the six months to end of June, down 5p to 68p.

All three have interests in gas production in America and will feel the negative effect of the weak dollar and a strong pound.

MARTIN BARROW

## UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
1.783.000 ASD Barwell	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2.224.000 ASD Barwell	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1.000.000 ASD Barwell	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
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Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
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Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
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Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
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## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
1.000.000 ASD Barwell	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
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Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
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## TH



The cyclical indicators of the economy tracked each month by the Central Statistical Office have never been much noticed by markets, unlike their counterparts in America. Yet there is no better way of seeing at a glance how the 1980s have differed from the 1970s, and how the boom of 1987-88 threatens a reversion to old ways.

After the alpine peaks and troughs of activity in the 1970s, last week's CSO release shows that for most of the last decade Britain achieved remarkably steady growth. Even the coal strike was only a rut on a smooth highway once the British economy had pulled out of recession at the start of the decade. The stop-go grinding of gears which characterised earlier years was largely absent. But in the last two years of the decade there has been a marked change of landscape. Though we are not back in the alpine territory of the 1973-75 cycle or the 1979-81 boom and slump we are certainly back in difficult country.

This will be my last column as a staff member of *The Times* and it is instructive to look back over

the changes of the past four years. When I joined in autumn 1986, not long out of the Treasury, Britain had already enjoyed a rather longer period of relatively steady growth than we were used to and inflation was falling satisfactorily. When Mrs Thatcher went to the country less than a year later she was able to contrast the British economy favourably with those of its European partners and claim that a sea-change had taken place.

Change certainly had occurred, but some fundamental problems of economic management remained. At the annual Mansion House banquet in October 1986, Nigel Lawson, the then chancellor, announced that the government was in effect abandoning the use of M3, the familiar broad measure of the money supply, as a target of economic management. For ten years one of the central concerns of the government, first under Denis Healey, the Labour chan-

cellor, and then under Sir Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson, M3 was ultimately discarded because of the distortion caused by structural changes in the way financial markets worked.

Abandoning M3 did not of itself solve anything. The monetary mantle descended on M0, the narrow measure, but in practice, interest rate decisions came to be taken more and more on the basis of movements in the exchange rate. The policy of informally targeting the pound against the mark, on which so much opprobrium has been heaped, was relatively short-lived. It seems to have grown almost by chance from the desire not to see sterling rise too high after the stock market crash. But

the commitment to join the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System has to be seen against the background of the failure of any alternative framework of monetary control.

Nor has the government arrived at a definitive set of rules for fiscal policy. Public spending is planned to decline gradually as a proportion of national income, but nobody has said for how long or on what principles. Public spending cannot go on falling as a proportion of the economy for ever. The ultimate level will depend partly on the preferred level of taxation (income tax at 20p in the pound), but it should also depend on the demand for public services.

At least a borrowing rule has

been clearly established (after one or two false starts). Taking the economic cycle as a whole, Britain should have a balanced budget, recent chancellors have said. But that still leaves a lot of uncertainty in deciding where we are in the cycle, and also in forecasting the surplus or deficit.

A public sector debt repayment of £14 billion for 1989-1990 looked a conservative plan at the time of the 1989 Budget, but the outturn of £7 billion was considerably less so. It is not even clear that a balanced budget is a sound economic principle: as the Labour Party has pointed out, it can make a lot of sense to borrow for capital investment.

At the end of a decade of searching for safe rules of conduct it seems that there is no substitute for judgment in economic policy. That judgment faltered in 1987-88. But soundness of judgment depends not only on the quality of the judge, but also on the reliability of the

evidence. Plans to improve both the quality and timeliness of statistics deserve an even higher priority.

The achievements of the past four years lie more on the supply side of economic policy. While the holy grail of macroeconomic management is still being sought, efficiency at the microeconomic level has shown occasionally exciting improvements.

There is no better example than electricity privatisation. Despite the chequered history of the government's biggest divestment, there is every sign that the fundamental aims of the policy are being triumphantly realised. For the first time anywhere in Europe, and arguably in the world, a real market in power is being established.

Managers are beginning to think in a different language, the disciplines of the capital market are being applied and the allocation of resources is being transformed. That is a monument of which any economic manager could be proud and which will help to make Britain significantly more competitive in the 1990s.

## Still searching for the holy grail

### ECONOMIC VIEW

RODNEY LORD

### REPORTING THIS WEEK

## Second-quarter dip expected at BAT



David Rowland: currency benefit likely



Nigel Rudd: year of change at Williams

THIS week sees the interim reporting season in full swing. The figures announced will show the impact of 15 per cent interest rates and the market is expecting little change.

They will be dominated by second-quarter figures from the post-merger BAT Industries on Wednesday. Analysts' expectations for the three months to end-June range from £380 million to £420 million, down from last year's £468 million.

#### TODAY

Polly Peck International, the electronics and fruit group whose shares have been affected by publicity surrounding an aborted buyout proposal, is expected to announce pre-tax profits ahead by about 50 per cent to about £100 million for the first six months.

A full contribution from the Del Monte fruit acquisition and a better performance at Vestel, the electronics subsidiary, will be behind the improved figure, but analysts say share issues will hold the earnings growth to single figures.

Interim: ASW Holdings, Church & Co, EFT Group, ES Group, Emsco, Halls Homes & Gardens, Interceptor Distillers Group, Jones (A) and Sons, Linwood, Pendragon, Perkins Foods, Persimmon, Polly Peck International, Portis Holdings, Unidra.

Final: Goodhead Group, JF Phillips Fund Inc, Murray Income Trust, Osonica Group.

Economic statistics: Retail sales (July - final), credit business (July).

#### TOMORROW

County NatWest WoodMac is pencilling in pre-tax profits of £47 million for Bowater, the packaging and paper group, for the six months to end-June, a 28 per cent improvement. Analysts say that the continued strong performance from the British and American packaging divisions and profit growth at the coating and laminates division, which is expected to be 20 per cent by the year-end, are responsible for the improvement.

Sedgwick, the insurance group where David Rowland is the chairman, looks about to announce flat pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June, after last year's £64.8 million, despite an estimated currency benefit of £3 million

to £5 million. The underlying brokerage growth in the first half has only been 4 per cent with North American retail up marginally, says UBS Phillips & Drew.

Interim: Bowater, CRH, European Home Products, IML, Lambert Howarth Group, Paramba, Peck, Porvair, Provident Financial Group, Paton, Rogers, Sedgwick Group, Sharpe & Fisher, Shorco Group Holdings, Finlay Cantors, Isotron, Mhangana Copper Mines, Usher (Frank) Holdings.

Economic statistics: Company liquidity survey (second quarter), UK official reserves (August).

#### WEDNESDAY

Forecasts for the first half of this year at Blue Circle Industries, the cement and home products group, are bunched at about £90 million, a 10 per

cent decline on last year's figure. The problem facing BCI is that, after two strong years, the British cement price is under pressure as demand begins to drop.

Every £1 off the price of cement knocks 10 per cent from BCI's cement profits, so the slowdown in commercial construction will have significant consequences for the group. The home products businesses will offer little comfort with interest rates at their current levels.

Hillside Holdings, the food, furniture and property group, is likely to see a strong recovery in its food activities after last year's poultry scare.

Pre-tax profit forecasts range from £80 million to £85 million for the half-year to

end-June, a rise of between a fifth and a quarter on last year's £67.6 million.

As well as the poultry improvement, a first-time contribution from Premier Brands will contribute to the increase. However, the progress in the food side will be offset by a substantially reduced property contribution and interest-rate hit furniture sales.

First-half pre-tax profits at the Williams Holdings conglomerate, chaired by Nigel Rudd, are likely to be marginally below last year's figure at £74 million, according to Robert Fleming Securities. The company is undergoing a year of change after pulling out of paint in Britain, the demerger of the vehicles division and

the rationalisation at Kidde. Underlying performance is difficult to identify as a result, but, says the team at Flemings, will probably show a marginal improvement on last year.

County NatWest WoodMac says that Wiggins Teape Appleton, the paper group demerged from BAT, will report pre-tax profits of £85 million for the first six months of the year.

The interim figures at Sun Alliance, the insurer, will be in a pre-tax loss range of £80 million to £115 million, according to market forecasts.

Net storm losses of £220 million have combined with a deteriorating underlying market performance in a gruesome first half for the company. But a substantial increase in the dividend is expected in line with Sun Alliance's policy of maintaining "a leading performance in terms of dividend growth".

Interim: Allied Partnership Group, Amec, Astra (AB), BAT Industries, Blue Circle Industries, Croda International, Donlon Tyson, Farnham International, Heming Son & Daw Holdings, Holloway Holdings, Newtor-SNA, Quicks Group, Senior Engineering Group, Stat-Plus Group, Sun Alliance Group, T&N, W&A Holdings, Wiggins Teape Appleton, Williams Holdings, Wimpey (Georgel), Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines.

Final: Black (Peter) Holdings, Harrogate, Select TV.

Economic statistics: Advance energy statistics (July), housing starts and completions (July), house repossessions (second quarter), detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

#### THURSDAY

Market forecasts ranging from £70 million to £85 million for the first half at Cookson Group compare with last year's £78 million. The company has net debts of £700 million and needs a large disposal to bring gearing down from the 80 per cent level at the last year-end.

Toxide, the company's successful joint venture, is the obvious candidate, but the disposal would lose the company its star performer.

UBS Phillips & Drew is forecasting first-half pre-tax profits of £113 million from the Reckitt & Coleman food and pharmaceuticals group, against £96.6 million last year. The market range is a tightly bunched £110 million to £115 million.

Interim: Appleby Group, Baltic Holdings, Blackwood Hodge, Booker, Burnham Castrol, Burns Anderson Group (third quarter), City & Commercial Investment Trust, Cookson Group, Courtauld Textiles, Darimor Investment Trust, Enterprise Oil, Hebble Holdings, Forwell Group, Gibbs and Dandy, Hambro Countrywide, Instem, International Business Communications (Holdings), Porras Holdings, Racot & Cornan, Russell (Alexander), Save & Prosper Gold Fund, Shires Investment, Thames Television, TFS Range, Type Ties Television Holdings, Vinton Group, Wilson Bowden, Wilson (Connolly) Holdings.

Final: London Merchant Securities.

Economic statistics: CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (August).

#### FRIDAY

Interim: Anglo American Gold Investment Co, Brannan, GT Credit Growth Fund, Inch Kenneth Kagan Rubber, Laird Group, LIT Holdings, Magnolia Group, Perry Group.

Final: Nons announced.

Economic statistics: Construction output (second quarter - provisional).

JONATHAN PRYNN

### TEMPUS

## Berisford sale will keep market sweet

NOW that British Sugar, Berisford International's most important asset, is about to be sold as one lump, the parent group's shares are beginning to be seen as a speculative buy.

The shares are seen as a warrant on the ability of new management, headed by John Slater, to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

A short-list of six interested parties of international pedigree are now studying a confidential memorandum on which they will base their bids, and analysts expect British Sugar to fetch anything between £900 million and £1.2 billion.

That money will be used to reduce Berisford debt further. Cash left over will help shore up the still weak value of Berisford's London and New York property portfolio.

The investment conundrum is that if British Sugar is sold as a separate entity Berisford might be required to pay a hefty capital gains tax bill.

Would-be purchasers might consider a full takeover bid for Berisford and thereby pick up British Sugar as well in a more tax-efficient manner.

Meanwhile, with Garry Weston's AB Foods sitting with 22.9 per cent of Berisford, and Larry Goodman with 11.08 per cent — though that may not last for long, given Mr Goodman's own pressing corporate financial worries — a smooth agreement on the sale of British Sugar to an "outsider" may be difficult.

However, once the asset sales are effected, the message should sink in that Berisford has a net worth comfortably in excess of its current share price.

But until the real worth of British Sugar is realised in Berisford's hands, any price-earnings ratio based on Friday's 43p share price must be notional.

There appears to be more upside than downside potential in Berisford shares at current levels. Bidding for British Sugar should be under way by mid-week.

But high interest rates and currency movements are clouding the picture. Nevertheless, Berisford badly needs the breathing space that a resolution of the British Sugar situation will provide.

So a "punt" remains the kindest description of the shares, for the moment.

### W & C P

CREATING prestigious leisure assets can be expensive and unrewarding. As more and more leisure entrepreneurs are discovering, matching income to the cost of holding these expensive assets is by no means straightforward.

So how should shareholders in Westminster and Country Properties view the ambitions of Robert Breare, the chief executive, to turn their little property group into a go-go leisure concern specialising in continental Europe?

Despite the still ruinous cost of money the omens are encouraging. At 100p, Friday's five-for-three rights issue is priced at 105p less than Mr Breare, with former colleagues and backers from his previous days at Parkdale Holdings, paid for their 29.9 per cent stake. They clearly believe there is an upside.

Then there is the additional comfort of 172p a share of

stated net assets, which helped keep the shares steady on Friday at 135p, despite the news of the rights issue.

Westminster, or Arcadian International, as it will soon be known, will not have the field of golf-related developments to itself. The company's future will depend on its ability to find and secure the best sites before the competition.

But it is confident that cash flow will come from project management fees on complexes where building costs will run into tens of millions of pounds. The company will certainly need something to replace rental income, once the investment portfolio is sold.

On the downside, Westminster has reported pre-tax losses of £1.7 million for the year to April and a sharp reduction in total dividend to 4p a share (14p).

But, given that the prospects for Westminster's traditional property business are diabolical, shareholders could do a lot worse than take up their rights.

### Alfred McAlpine

GRAEME Odgers, who earned universal respect after eight successful years at Tarmac, has no illusions about the size of the task he now faces at Alfred McAlpine, the family-controlled construction group.

Nor does the City, which responded to Odgers' warning that housebuilding interests would make a second-half loss by wiping almost 12 per cent off the company's stock market value.

Although Alfred McAlpine reported interim profits up 10 per cent to £5 million, forecasts for the full year have been reduced dramatically from an average £26 million before tax to between £10 million and £12.5 million, against last year's £23.6 million.

But Odgers, recruited by Bobby McAlpine, the chairman, to breathe some fire back into one of Britain's most successful civil engineers of the 1980s, is quietly confident about the company's prospects.

He has reduced head office staff by half and reviewed the future of businesses which are clearly underperforming. First- and second-tier managers have been told that poor results will not be tolerated.

Gearing is close to 70 per cent and next year promises to be equally difficult. At 284p, the shares are on a prospective p/e of 12.3, bearing a yield of 7.4 per cent, and are not cheap.

New investors will be backing the man as much as the company.

● Edited by Michael Tate

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Bohan is a snip at £1m

MANNY Silverman, who was ousted as chief executive of Moss Bros in 1987, and went on to buy Hartnell — a cousin to the Queen and Queen Mother — from the receiver six months later, will take his new business into the history books today, when designer Marc Bohan, similarly ousted from Christian Dior in Paris, becomes its artistic and design director. Bohan, who worked in London 30 years ago, is expected to bring with him a glittering array of European and American clients, including Princess Caroline of Monaco. "We had a succession of guest designers," says Silverman. "We realised that Bohan would be our ideal choice, after 28 years with Dior, and so I picked up the telephone. I had never spoken to him before. The negotiations began at once." European television networks and newspapers have already been reserving seats for Bohan's first Hartnell collection, due to be shown on January 24, and although Silverman refuses to confirm or deny reports that Bohan has been guaranteed a minimum salary of £1 million over three years, he says: "This makes us the first British house to have hired an international designer and in so doing it will put us alongside the top houses in Paris, Milan and New York. The publicity we have had already, all over the world, must be worth at least

£500,000. Personally, I hope that he earns £1 million a year."

A CLERK employed by the Canadian government received a document, initialled it and passed it on. It was promptly returned to him with the following note: "This document did not concern you. Please erase your initials and initial your enurese."

### Enter stage left

PETER Greenhalgh, the former Hill Samuel star who went on to join Arbutnot Latham, the merchant bank, is now joining Charterred West LB as head of corporate finance. History will be repeating itself for Greenhalgh, aged 45, who was chief executive of AAF Investment Corporation until he resigned abruptly in

June. For he will once again be working alongside Ian Lapping, with whom he ran Hill Samuel's corporate finance division in Johannesburg in the early 1980s. Lapping is now head of domestic corporate finance at Charterred. "The old team is back together again," says Greenhalgh, who was relaxing with friends in Cumbria last week, before starting work at the bank's Gracechurch Street offices today. Under his watchful eye, Charterred may well take on a somewhat literary air. For money aside, Greenhalgh has written five books and five plays thus far, and won an academy award for one of his plays, *Wrath of Achilles*.

### Legging it

ANDREA Kirby, the transport and conglomerates analyst at Goldman Sachs, is off again. It is not that she is leaving the firm she joined just six months ago, but that she is off on a 190-mile sponsored walk across the Pennines, from west to east, to raise money for the Leukemia Fund. She already has pledges from most of her colleagues at Goldman, along with her bookseller — a fair return, she reckons, for the thousands she has spent over the years as part of her hobby of collecting antique books. "I should be able to wrap this one up in a couple of weeks," she predicts, her confidence boosted by the 500 miles she has already done through France, including a trek across the Pyrenees last December. Kirby has one obstacle to

overcome first, though. Goldman's research department has a block booking at the Munich Bierfest, just before she begins her walk. "I imagine I'll start walking with a hangerover," she says.

CITY jokers are at it again... Question: Why did the chicken cross the road? Answer: To get to the other side. Question: Why did Ivan Boesky cross the road? Answer: Because he saw Ernest Saunders and Gerald Ronson walking towards him.

### Diving in

AMIR Eilon, an Israeli-born American and formerly the head of Morgan Stanley's international equity capital markets group, is joining Barclays de Zoete Wedd as a managing director in its corporate finance department. Eilon, who is aged 41, joined Morgan Stanley in 1985 from Samuel Montagu, where he had been a director in the firm's international capital markets division. He takes up his position next Monday and will be working alongside Graham Pimlott, chief executive of BZW's corporate finance division. "I was lucky that the job was there at the right time for me," says Eilon, who is now enjoying a break with his family at their North London home. Eilon, who lists scuba diving, skiing and chess as his hobbies, will be responsible for running a new corporate financing unit at BZW.

CAROL LEONARD



"The board fully agrees your job cuts proposal — you're fired."



Slater: shares seen as warrant on his ability to succeed

### CAPITAL MARKETS

## Sudden surge changes SCP's fortunes

IS THE sterling commercial paper market — for so long the Cinderella of the international capital markets — finally coming into its own? The market was launched amid much hype in 1986, and was heralded as a flexible new source of low cost, short-term (one week to one year) funding for major companies.

There was talk of a £20 billion market, and most of the larger British merchant banks, the high street clearers and several American banks set up SCP dealing teams.

But after an initial burst, the market grew only slowly, never quite reaching the critical mass that was needed to create a truly liquid, accessible funding market. There were a number of reasons behind this

failure to reach early expectations, one of which was the excessive optimism of those expectations. Another was the ability of British companies to tap the liquid and often cheaper bill market.

The result was that, by 1989, the market had reached a plateau of about £4 billion outstanding from which it seemed almost incapable of growing. It was also feared that what little liquidity there was in the market could dry up if a major issuer defaulted. So far, this has not happened, although Ferranti came uncomfortably close last year.

Suddenly, this summer, the picture has changed. After a year in the doldrums the market has surged impressively. Figures released by the

Bank of England last Friday show new issues of SCP in July were a record £5.75 billion. Month-end outstanding of £5.6 billion are also at an high. Issuance is running at an annualised rate of about £60 billion, compared with £40 billion last year.

So what has changed to bring about the growth? One factor is that ever-tightening Bank of England restrictions mean that a number of banks cannot accept any further bills, making companies more reliant on commercial paper.

Another factor, according to John Foley, of Midland Montagu, is that most investors now feel confident that the next interest rate move will be down, and are, therefore, more willing to commit sur-

plus cash funds beyond a week.

A third influence has been the increasing willingness of institutional fund managers to invest their cash in commercial paper rather than expensive gilts or volatile equities.

But it is not all good news. Smaller and, in particular, unrated companies are finding it more difficult to access the market as a result of the traditional flight to quality by investors during times of economic uncertainty.

However, overall, the outlook for what is now a widely used source of funding for the top end of corporate Britain, has rarely looked better since the market's inception.

JONATHAN PRYNN







# The greatest show off earth opens again

The Middle East dispute has dramatically changed the character of Farnborough International, one of the world's leading air shows, which opened yesterday.

Until August, the organisers were predicting that the salesmen, their potential customers, and the thousands of aviation enthusiasts who attend, would concentrate on the developments in civil aviation. The world's aerospace industry was struggling to meet the demand created by the greatest ever boom in air travel, while the military took a back seat after the outbreak of peace in Europe.

All this has changed. Small countries have been reminded that, without adequate defences, they are vulnerable to sudden attack, while large nations are having to re-evaluate the defence strategies developed, perhaps rather hastily, in the past 12 months.

The commercial aircraft manufacturers, which had been cheerily predicting decades of unprecedented growth because of stable fuel prices and a rosy outlook for the world's economy, are having to recalculate the effect of the higher cost of oil and the possibility of a recession.

Interest is likely to switch to the new aero engines which can guarantee lower fuel usage, and smaller jets, rather than the huge long-term orders the salesmen had been expecting to clinch.

The Society of British Aero-

**The best civil and military aircraft from the world's leading makers**

**will be displayed**

**or flown at**

**Farnborough 90.**

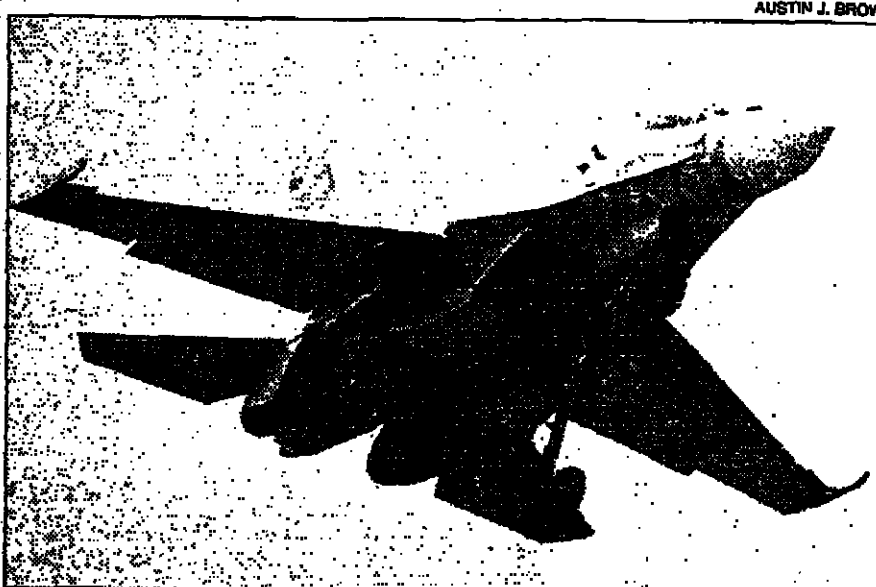
**Harvey Elliott**

**sets the scene**

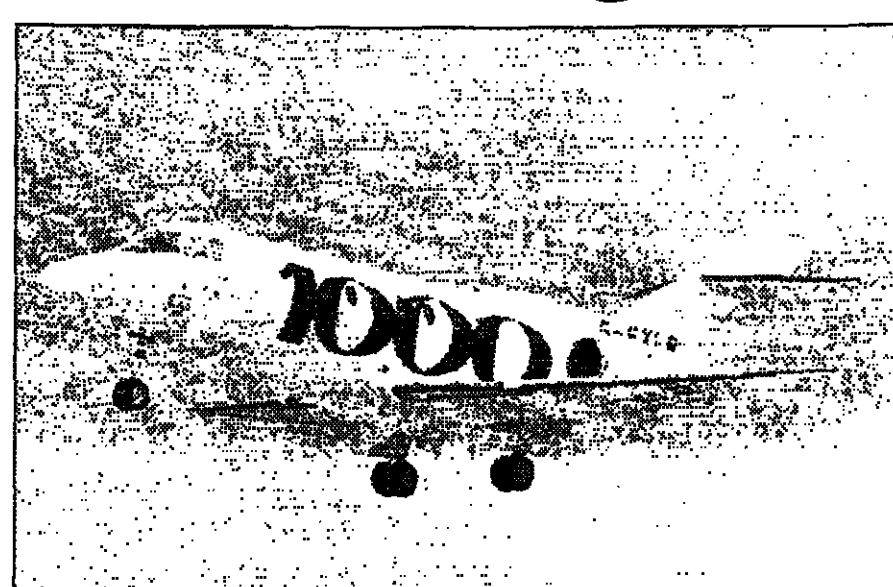
space Companies, which has organised the show, expected a greater demand than ever for space in the exhibition halls and managed to extend the area of the hospitality "chalets" and the space in the permanent exhibition halls by about 8 per cent to 58,500 sq m. Every bit of space has been booked.

Farnborough, although it is open to foreign exhibitors, is essentially a showcase for British goods, and dozens of British companies, from those that build fighters and commercial aircraft to the small subcontractors making vital components, will be there.

The British aerospace industry employs 200,000 people, has a turnover of £11.4 billion a year and contributes £3.2 billion to the nation's balance of trade.



Fast forward: The Soviet Union is now more willing to show fighters such as the SU 27 (left). Another Farnborough star will be the BAe 1000 intercontinental business jet



British Aerospace will show off its new BAe 1000 long-range, twin-engine business jet, a re-designed stretched version of the BAe 125-800, which can fly the Atlantic from east to west and cross the United States from coast to coast.

Many items of the company's range of military equipment, ordnance and vehicles will be displayed in the realistic setting of the British Aerospace defence presentation park. This contains a replica of an airfield dispersal site, complete with hardened aircraft shelter. Overhead, the Tornado, Hawk, Harrier and a range of

commercial aircraft will roar through their display.

There will also be the attraction of the RAF's vintage aircraft, which will take part in spectacular displays commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The Red Arrows will perform their stunning aerobatic routine between Wednesday and Sunday.

The United States Air Force will no longer be able to display its F-117A stealth fighter at Farnborough, but a three-and-a-half-hour flying display will provide spectators with a wide range of aircraft, from the tiny Microlease

Pitts Special and its aerobatic ballet to the six-engine Russian Antonov An-225. Boeing will be there in force and speculation is growing that the company might announce the formal launch of the 777 twin-jet with which it aims to challenge the markets dominated by the A330 and A340 Airbus.

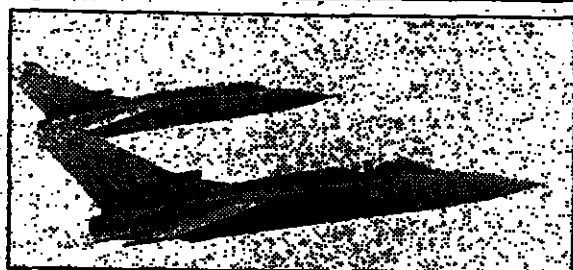
McDonnell Douglas, whose future has at times looked uncertain, will try to prove it is still at the forefront of the world's aerospace industry by showing its MD-30N tail-rotorless helicopter, and a model of the MD-11 tri-jet which, it believes, can take a big share of the market for long-

range airliners. The Americans are at Farnborough in force this year with 77 companies, 42 of them new to the show, exhibiting under the banner of American Aerospace Industries, and a further 40 exhibiting independently. France, which wants to show that it remains as powerful as ever, has 55 companies exhibiting at Farnborough.

West Germany will have a large presence through Deutsche Aerospace, Italy, which did not exhibit at Farnborough 88, is back with 29 companies showing their wares.

For the aerospace companies which want not only to show off

new products but to see what rivals are doing, it will be the size of the orders which will determine whether or not Farnborough 90 has been a success. The last time the show was held, in 1988, orders announced at the show exceeded £3 billion, more than three times the amount of business done at the 1986 show. In 1988, the total was split almost 50-50 between civilian and military equipment. Only a few weeks ago, experts would have predicted that this year the balance would favour civilian sales. The activities of Iraq's President Saddam Hussein might lead to a different result.



Long rangers: Tornado interceptors on exercise

## Flying fever

ALMOST 350,000 people saw the last Farnborough air show in 1988, and this year more visitors are expected to attend.

The week-long show is divided into three sections. The first part, held yesterday, was aimed at the media. The main business days run from today until Thursday and entry is limited to trade customers.

The show is open to the public from Friday to Sunday. The entrance fee is £11 for an adult and £3 for a child. If you plan to drive there, go early in order to find room in the car park (£3 a day). Wealthy visitors can go on a Cabair helicopter from Fleet, in Hampshire. Tickets cost £99 return and include rail travel from Waterloo, Basingstoke or Woking to the helipad.

Many visitors make a family outing by taking picnic lunches or they use one of the restaurants and refreshment tents in the main grounds.

The real excitement each day begins in the afternoon when 50 of the 150 or so aircraft which have flown into Farnborough over the past few days start to show their capabilities above Hampshire.

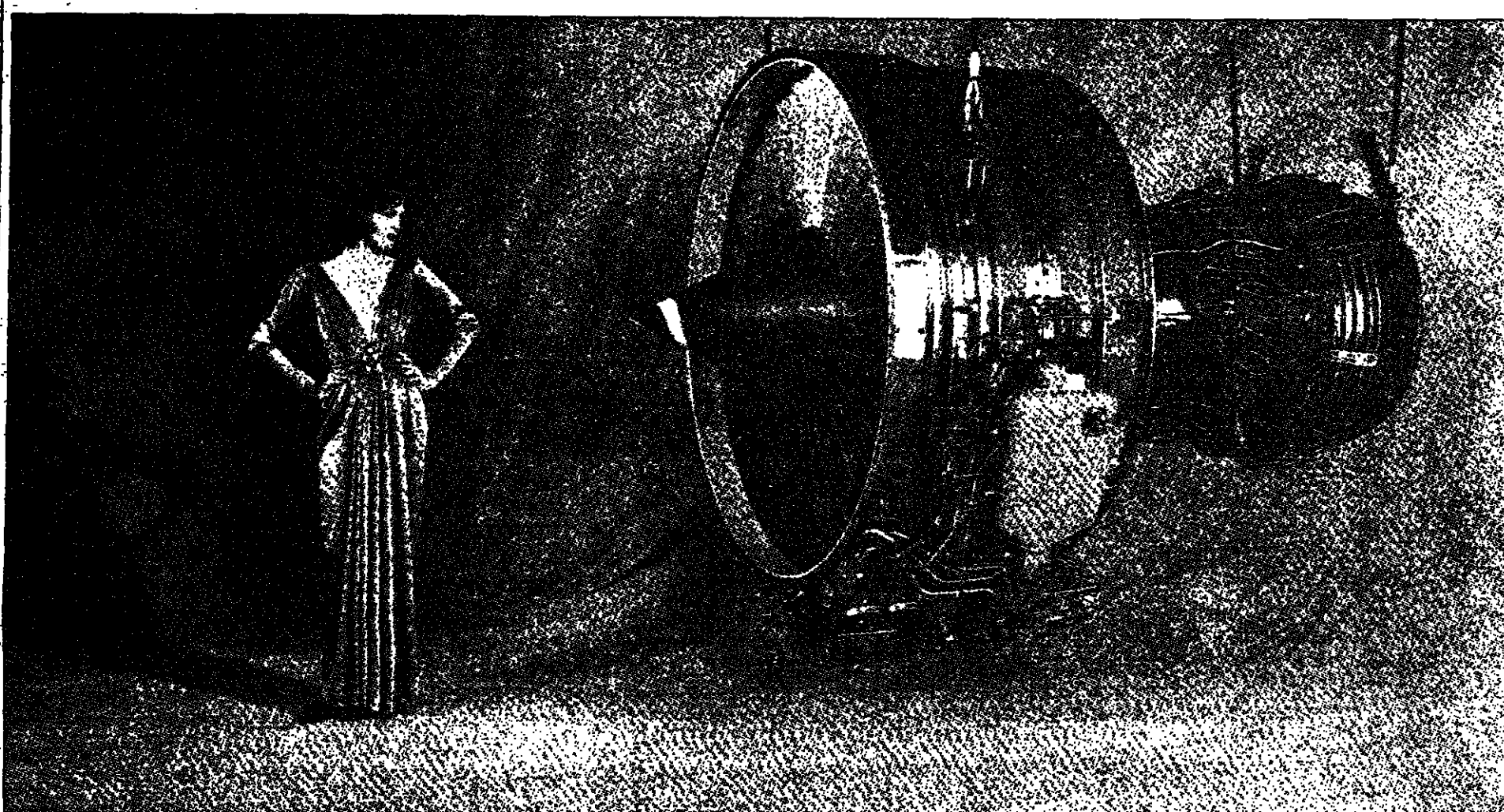
At about 12.30pm, the "static" park, an area containing stationary aircraft, will be closed as aircraft are gradually moved across the runway

to a holding area where pilots are given a final briefing before taking off. Safety rules have been further tightened this year and no aircraft will directly cross the line of spectators. The close-up view of aircraft, from tiny microlights to the Soviet Union's huge An-225 six-engine transport, should satisfy the most avid fan.

The roar of fighters such as the F-16, Harrier GR5, Tornado and Mirage will shatter the quiet of the countryside. They will be interspersed with aircraft of differing shapes and sizes, from the airships of Airship Industries, the Royal Navy's Lynx helicopter and two German Lo 100 gliders.

This year's show is particularly important for the RAF because it commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain. As well as fly-pasts by the modern fighters and strike aircraft now in service, there will be a fly-past by the Royal Navy Historic Flight, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and a combination of the Tornado F3 and a Spitfire.

The Red Arrows will perform from Wednesday to Sunday. The Soviets will be showing off the Sukhoi SU 27 fighter and the Mikoyan MIG-29, but the new twin turbo-prop 60-seat airliner, the Il-114, has been withdrawn.



Gown by Yves Saint Laurent.

Some French achievements go far beyond luxury.

## So much to see on the ground

WITH MORE companies exhibiting at Farnborough than ever and a three-and-a-half-hour flying display every afternoon, visitors this week are spoilt for choice in what to see and do.

The hard work will be done during the first three trade days, when aircraft and equipment salesmen will be offering hospitality to the 50,000 or so trade visitors expected to visit Farnborough in the hope of clinching orders.

For hundreds of thousands of people who simply want to view some of the latest, and the earliest, products of the world's aviation industry, the last three days, open to everyone, are the most important.

As well as a large comprehensive park, there are exhibitions of every conceivable type of equipment, from avionics to radars, missiles and electronics, a museum of vintage aircraft and, of course, the flying display.

About 800 companies are exhibiting in four giant halls festooned with the flags and logos of companies from every continent. Many have audio-visual demonstrations and commentaries, while others include working models showing the insides of engines and other equipment.

Visitors, particularly those going by car, should try to arrive early so they have time

to see as many of the huge range of exhibits as possible. There are spaces for 32,000 cars in grassed areas, which can often involve a long trek to the main viewing sites. A fleet of buses has been chartered to operate a shuttle service to the main part of the show.

The formal opening is at 9.30am.

Farnborough 90 will be one of the most spectacular, as well as one of the most important exhibitions that the Society of British Aerospace Companies has held since it first showed its wares at Olympia in London in 1918.

The event was moved in 1932 to an airfield site so that a flying display could be included, and from 1948 Farnborough was the venue.

Until 1962, the show was held each year and some of Britain's most exciting aircraft have made their first public appearance at Farnborough.

Although other countries have followed, notably Paris and, more recently, Singapore, none has yet caught the excitement of Farnborough. Some companies have from time to time backed out, complaining that it cost too much to take part, but most have returned, unable to avoid the temptation of showing off what they can do, as well as hoping to win the all-important orders.

Creators of high fashion, jewellery and perfume all contribute to French prestige abroad. And many French think the great names of luxury are their leading exporters.

In fact, France's leading exporter to the United States is an aircraft engine manufacturer: SNECMA.

The CFM56, built in an equal partnership with General Electric, has been chosen by over 100 airlines to power several types of Boeing and Airbus

aircraft. It is the most popular engine in its class sold today - a commercial success bearing witness to SNECMA's technological excellence.

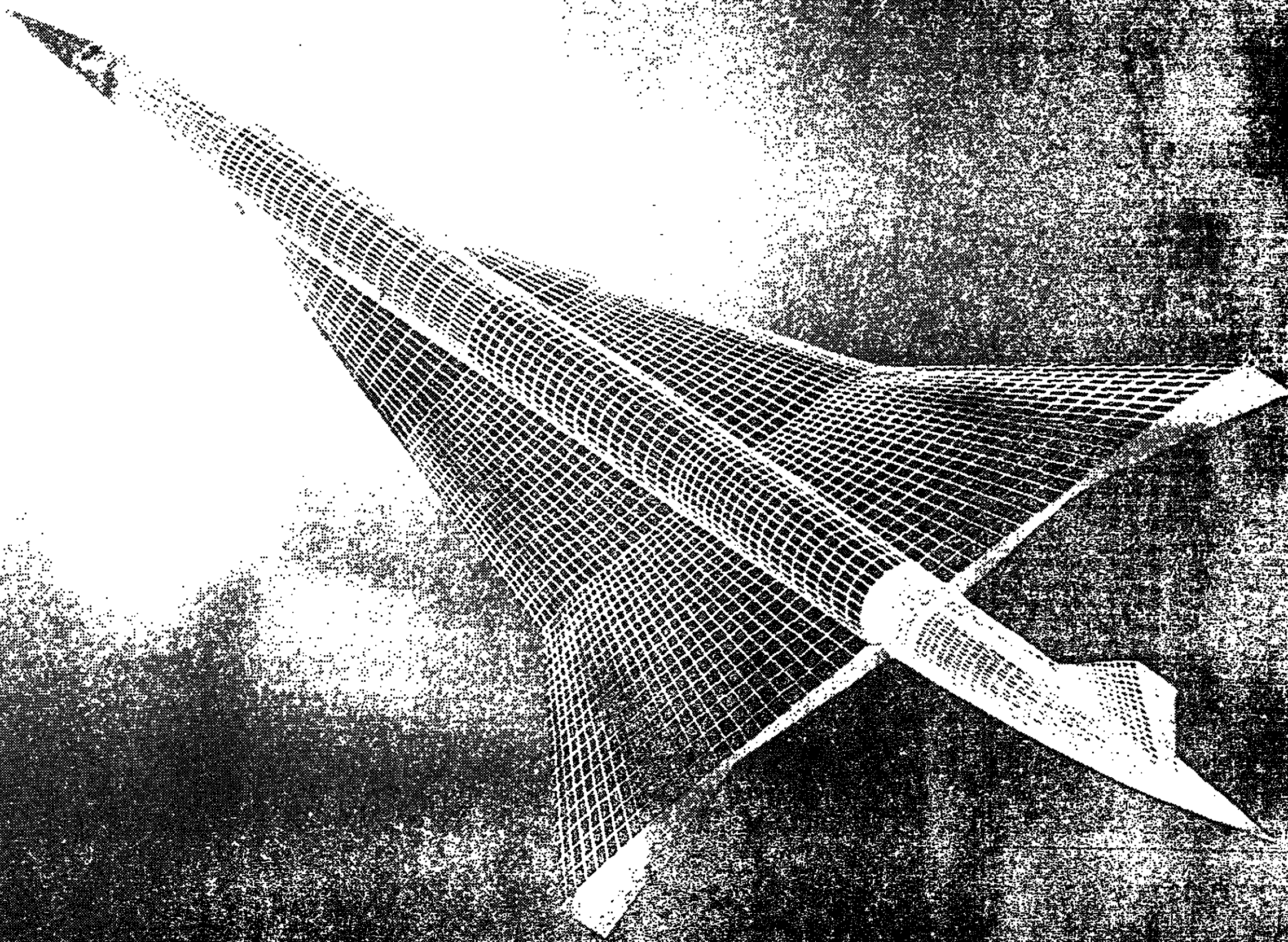
And the same rigorous pursuit of technological excellence which contributed to the CFM56's commercial success now marks the development of the M88 engine for the Dassault Rafale. In the M88, the technologies of the 21st century are finding form today. These achievements are the proud

products of the intelligence and abilities of the men and women of SNECMA - who delight in the knowledge that, in addition to technology, they help propel the luxuries of France to the four corners of the world.

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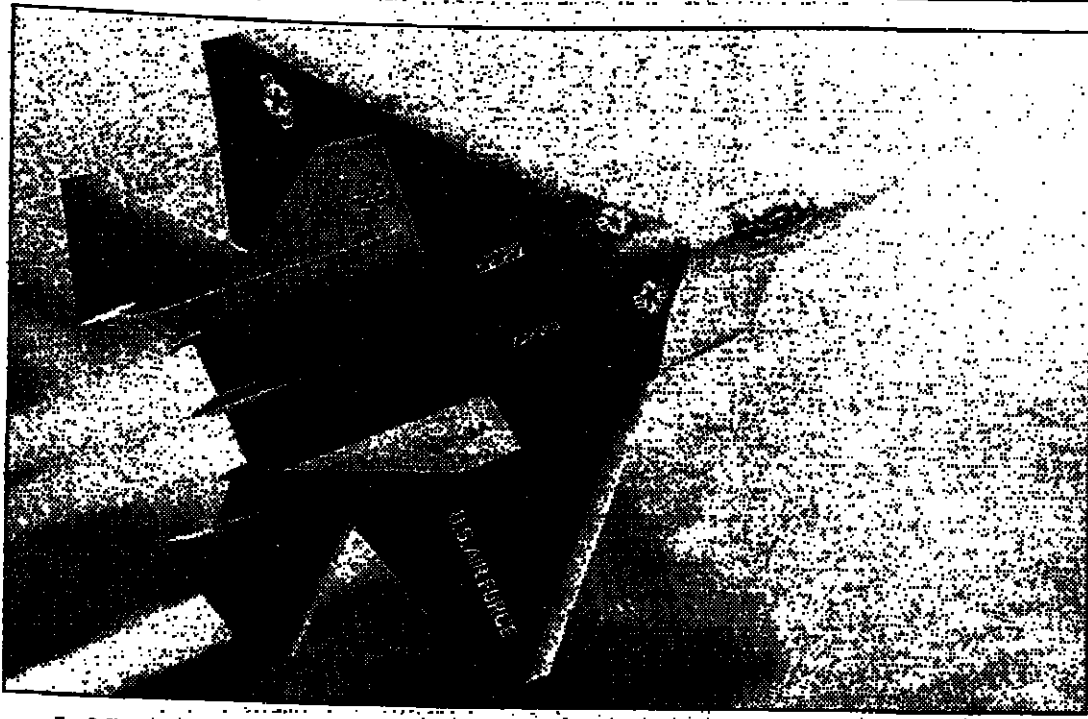
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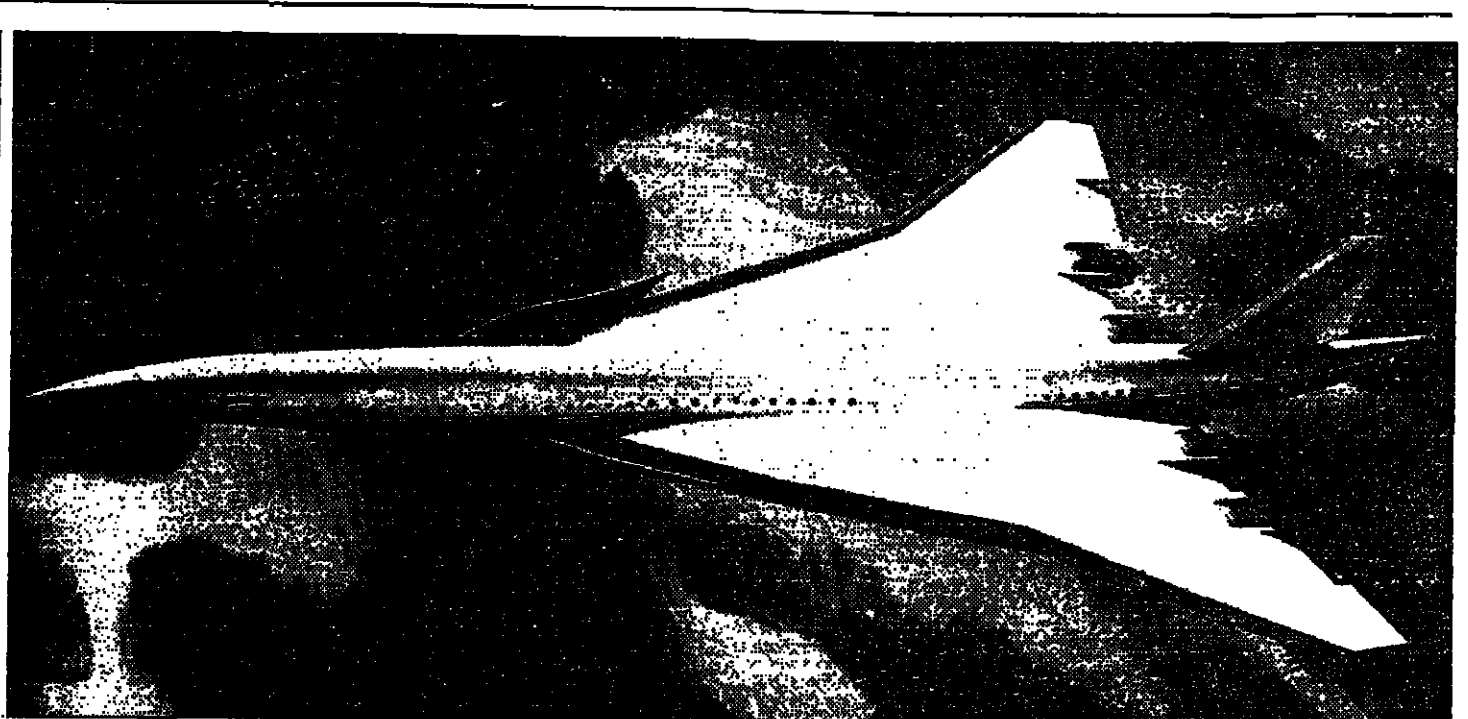
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هاتوا معي الأصل





In full flight: artist's impression of the Advanced Tactical Fighter currently under development



Flying into the next century: conquering noise levels will be one of the biggest problems for the next generation of supersonics

## Preparing for peace

The defence industry has suffered a year of conflicting fortunes. With the end of the Cold War, most Nato countries have announced plans to cut defence budgets in the search for the so-called peace dividend. Yet the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has reminded western governments of the need to maintain a strong capability to deal with potential conflicts outside the Nato area.

However, as the Warsaw Pact no longer presents a military threat and as the Soviet Union continues to thaw relations with the West, it is unlikely that governments will reverse their decisions to reduce expenditure over the next few years.

Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, has announced a 12 per cent cut in spending between 1992 and 1994. The British defence ministry's cancellation of the eighth batch of 33 Tornados, part of an urgent attempt to save £600 million from this year's budget, was the first indication of the size of the cuts that are likely to be imposed over the next few years.

Britain has made it clear with its "options for change" defence review that the aim is to produce smaller but better armed forces. The defence industry, which in many areas has already had to announce redundancies, will need to adapt to the changed international climate.

### Defence companies need to adapt to a new military climate, says Michael Evans

Under Sir Peter Levene, chief of the procurement executive at the defence ministry, the focus has already switched from "cost plus" to cost-effective equipment programmes. With cuts in military expenditure, defence companies will have to concentrate even more on value-for-money products, preferably with greater emphasis on collaboration with allies. However, there is also a clear commitment among western governments to maintain technological superiority vis-à-vis the Soviet Union, both as a deterrent and as an insurance against potentially hostile Third World countries which might acquire the latest Soviet equipment and pose a threat to the West.

Reducing or cancelling the most expensive equipment programmes may seem the answer to those who seek instant savings. In this context, the American B-2 Stealth bomber and the £20 billion European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) programme are bound to be examined more closely by respective treasury departments.

Production of the much-maligned Stealth bomber has been

cut back. Orders of EFA will be reduced, once the development phase is completed. The argument today is that EFA is needed because it promises to be the most advanced multi-role fighter for the late nineties, capable of outdoing anything in the Soviet air force.

The US Air Force will want to see the development of the Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF) continue unaffected by defence cuts, although there is already a planned two-year delay in initial procurement as a result of a Pentagon aircraft review.

The ATF design includes the use of stealth technology and an advanced avionics system capable of detecting, identifying and engaging the enemy at ranges beyond the pilot's vision.

Stealth technology which enables aircraft to fly "unseen" past enemy radar, has become a vital ingredient in the design of all fighters and bombers. Aircraft designs also focus increasingly on new composite materials, many of which have very low density, resulting in significant weight savings.

Weapon systems, too, are benefiting from advanced technologies. Laserfire, for example, is a low level air defence system developed by British Aerospace. Operation of the weapon is automatic, apart from the pressing of a firing button. Targets are detected by surveillance radar and then tracked by a laser.

A second-generation supersonic airliner, known as the advanced supersonic transport (AST), has come closer to reality with the setting-up of an international research team by five of the world's leading aircraft manufacturers.

The group, formed by McDonnell Douglas and Boeing of the United States, Deutsche Aerospace, of West Germany, Aerospatiale of France and British Aerospace (BAE), will make a one-year study of the potential for an AST.

At the same time, Aerospatiale and BAE, whose partnership designed and developed the Concorde, have embarked on a similar preliminary study, which will take three years and cost the companies £5.5 million.

The plane that may emerge from these deliberations will be based to a large extent on the technological lessons learnt from Concorde, which has been in daily service with British Airways and Air France for 11 years. It will cruise at the same speed, 1,350mph, and although there will be great use of carbon-fibre composites, its airframe will be made of much the same metals.

An AST would carry 300 passengers instead of Concorde's 100 and fly twice as far without refuelling. One of Concorde's problems has been that it cannot carry enough passengers to make an operating profit without its operators charging a high premium above first-class fares. This has not prevented its becoming popular with business executives. But the AST's proponents are determined that such a plane

## Race to design Concorde II

Two teams formed by the leading aircraft manufacturers are looking at ideas for the next generation of supersonic planes

would be more of a "people's airliner", with three classes of travel and fares pitched at around the same level as subsonic flights. A supersonic transport offering 300 seats might make this feasible.

The extra range which would be built into the AST would make it a truly trans-Pacific airliner, rather than a transatlantic airliner like Concorde. Los Angeles to Tokyo takes just over ten hours by jumbo jet; the AST could cut the time to 4.3 hours. Los Angeles to Sydney takes 14 hours today; the AST could fly the distance in about half the time.

But though the AST, flying at 60,000ft, would outpace all the subsonic airliners flying 25,000ft lower, it would probably produce similar noise levels at airports. Anybody who has heard a Concorde take-off will agree that its four Olympus 593 engines, based on technology developed as far back as the 1950s, make a tremendous din. Noise rules at airports have become tough since then, and are likely to become tougher. The engine manufacturers have

embarked on a study of a new concept called variable-cycle, in which the AST's power plants would behave in the same muted manner as those on the latest jumbos during take-off and landing, but would also be capable of developing the enormous thrust at altitude needed to drive the AST through the sound barrier.

The development of such an engine is the most intractable of all the problems posed by a new generation of supersonic commercial jets.

By comparison, building the AST's flight deck would be relatively straightforward. Though it contained some novel advances when it was designed, Concorde's cockpit is outmoded by today's standards. Both British Airways and Air France have looked at having their Concorde fleets refitted with the latest technology, but have rejected the idea on grounds that the "surgery" would be too involved, would cost too much and would mean the aircraft being out of service for too long.

Flight-deck technology would

be transferred to the AST from that developed for the latest subsonic airliners. It would include instrumentation displayed on full-colour cathode-ray tubes, computerised control of each flight, from take-off to landing, and "flying by wire", in which commands from the controls on the flight deck are conveyed to the aircraft's moving surfaces by electronic signalling, rather than by a series of rods, wires and pulleys.

Two areas are giving the AST study teams pause for serious thought: its impact on the environment, and the source of the finance for research and development, tentatively estimated at around \$3.5 billion.

Those behind the AST are already resigned to the fact that it is unlikely to be able to cruise over land, because of the sonic boom that will be heard behind it. But the researchers still have to assess what effect nitrogen oxide emissions from its engines would have on the ozone layer.

Financing development of an AST could possibly be done through a mixture of government research grants and private funding. Cost to the airlines of each AST is impossible to guess at this stage, depending as it would on the final bill for research and development and the number of aircraft likely to be sold. Preliminary marketing studies have come up with a wide range of possibilities, from as low as 200 sales to more than 1,000, if and when "son of Concorde" comes into service in the opening decade of the next century.

ARTHUR REED



Airbus A330: the single most important generator of work and export earnings for Britain's aerospace industry

Despite rising oil prices and international concern about the effects of the dispute in the Gulf, Boeing, the world's leading plane-maker, is confident that the boom in demand for large commercial airliners will continue (Harvey Elliott writes).

Phil Condit, the Boeing executive vice-president, says: "Some airlines in the US have already increased fares as a result of the rise in fuel prices and this does tend to have a dampening effect on traffic. Our forecasts, however, show that in the long term, both passenger numbers and the demand for aircraft will continue to rise."

Until Iraq invaded Kuwait it seemed that the three industry leaders, Boeing, Airbus and McDonnell Douglas, were heading for the biggest boom in their history. Airlines needed to replace a large part of their fleets of older, noisier and less-efficient jets and to supply new aircraft to cope with the expected 6 per cent average annual growth in demand for air travel.

All the statisticians agreed that the industry would have to build about 10,000 commercial jets world-wide over the next 15 years. They were grateful for the downturn in military spending, which they believed would create the vital excess capacity required to turn out the huge numbers involved.

Much of that optimism was founded on two main pillars: continued peace and stable oil prices, which would enable the main economies to grow steadily.

If the boom is over and airlines cancel their options, the effect on manufacturers, who have invested billions of dollars to step up production, and on thousands of suppliers, could be serious.

Before the Gulf dispute, Airbus, which has made tremendous inroads into the American-dominated civil aircraft market, was cock-a-hoop. Since the last Farnborough Air Show in 1988, its

## Clouds over the Gulf for air travel industry

Manufacturers are confident the demand for commercial airliners will continue

order books had nearly doubled. Sales last month stood at more than 1,450 aircraft, with another 600 options. Some airline customers - representing 92 airline operators - had been told they could not expect delivery before the turn of the century.

Like Boeing, Airbus was well on the way to overcoming a strike which delayed production and delivery. With a family of six different aircraft on offer, the largest range of any manufacturer, the future looked rosy.

Pride of the Airbus family is the A320 a twin-engine, short-range jet, which, when it entered service in 1988, was the fastest-selling jet airliner in history. The stretched version, the A321, has been chosen by ten customers who have placed 100 orders, even though the aircraft is not going into production for another year.

Even faster-selling is the huge A330/A340, with total commitments for more than 400 aircraft more than a year before the A340's maiden flight.

For Britain's aerospace industry the Airbus A330/A340 programme represents the single most important generator of work and export earnings for the next 15 to 20 years. When fitted with Rolls-Royce Trent engines, the A330 will be more than 50 per cent British-made, including the wing, undercarriage and a vast range of sub-contracted work.

Airbus is well on the way towards a target of grabbing 30

per cent of the world market for large commercial aircraft. In the wide-body twin market, it has taken more than half. The company is confident that in the next 10 to 15 years, it will sell at least 3,000 aircraft with a total value of more than \$180 billion.

Boeing, like Airbus, is increasing production rates and trying to cut costs. The only major slump in aircraft orders came after the two oil price rises in the Seventies, which led to a world recession and directly affected the demand for air travel.

If the current tension in the Gulf has a similar effect, it could throw into question the long-awaited launch of the new twin jet to be known as the Boeing 777, designed to compete with the Airbus A330. Airlines have been eagerly awaiting the formal launch of this aircraft to meet their expected demands after 1995 for a long-range, fuel-efficient aircraft.

Boeing says it is evaluating the needs of the airlines before deciding to go ahead. Also in the balance are special features such as folding wings, which Boeing hopes will overcome problems of congestion at smaller airports.

The opportunity for the launch of the project is small and Mr Condit believes a decision will be taken later in the autumn when, among other things, any long-term damage caused by the Gulf conflict will have been calculated more accurately.

Because about 1,850 aircraft more than 20 years old are still flying, Boeing expects about 300 a year to be retired, providing a basic market for new aircraft of all sizes from the small 737s to the giant 747-400.

The existing size, shape and technology of large modern jets will remain for many years.

"You will continue to see small improvements with fuel efficiency and aerodynamics over the next ten years but no really major changes are now expected," Mr Condit says.

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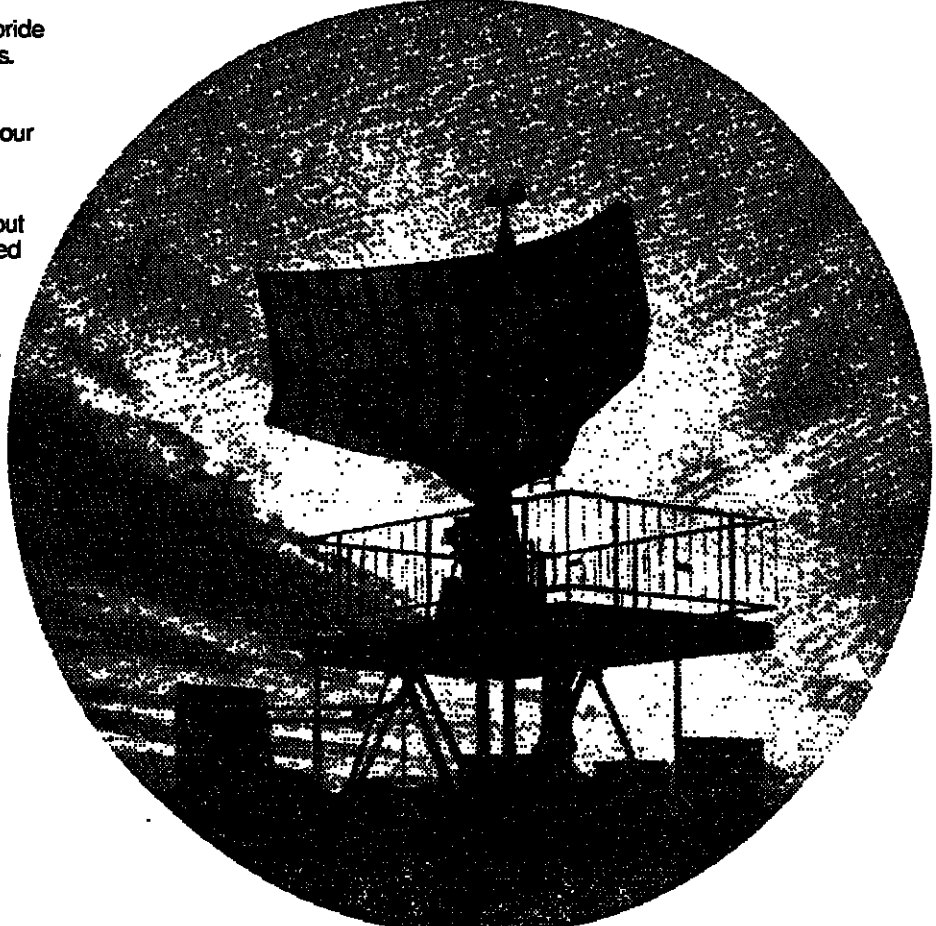
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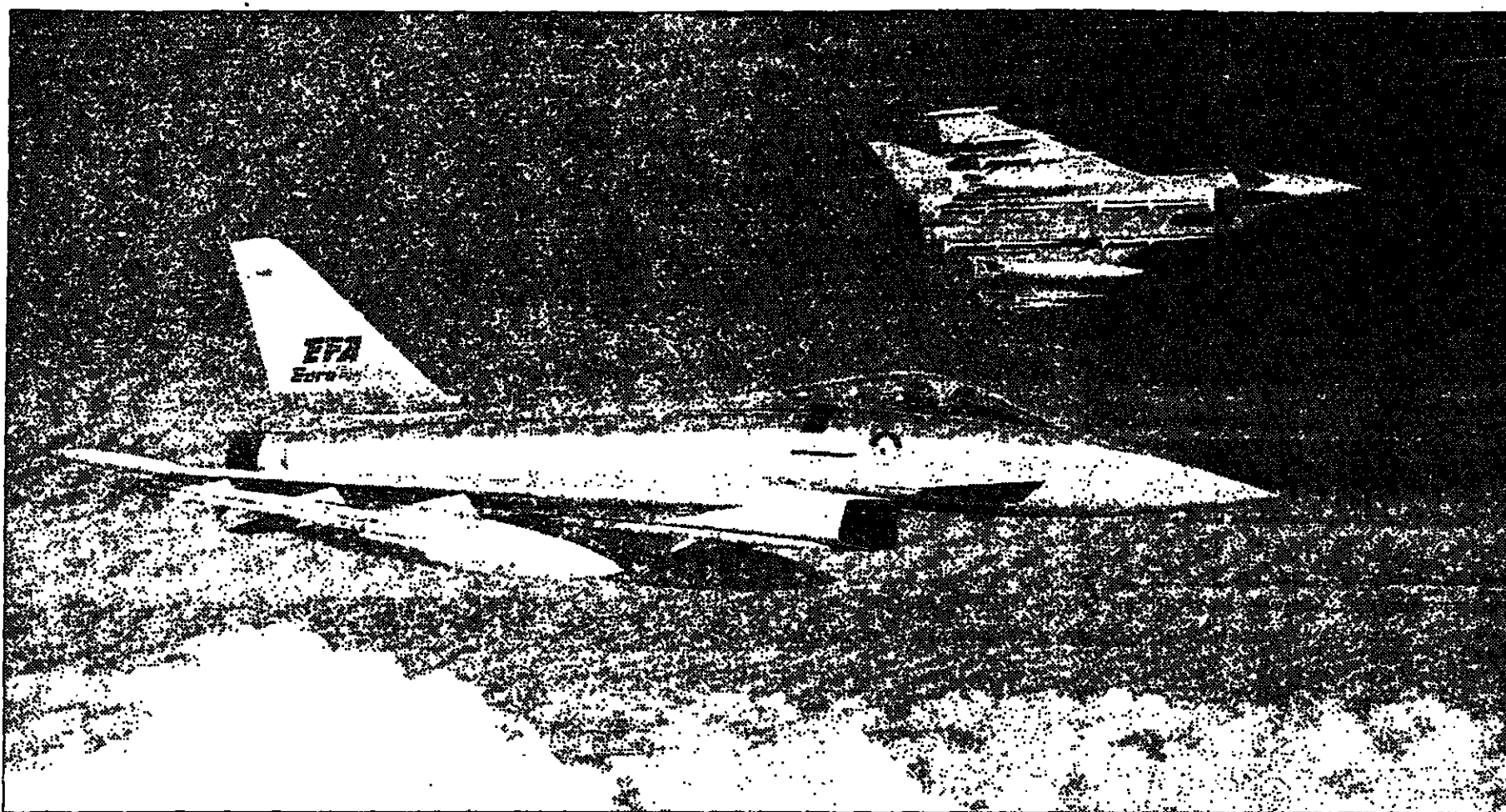
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# Europe set to take command



High tech togetherness: Continental collaboration has produced the European Fighter Aircraft which will re-equip the air forces of several member countries

Europe is now securely established as one of the biggest and most influential players in world aerospace. Its products, both military and civil, are proving serious competition in export markets for the traditional leaders, the United States and the Soviet Union.

Extensive support from governments, and partnerships between nations have been the two keys to the remarkable development of European aircraft design, research, development and manufacturing capability.

There are three enormous collaborative projects: the Tornado fighter/bomber, produced under an agreement between Britain, West Germany and Italy, which is now nearing the end of its production run; the European Fighter Aircraft, an 800-aircraft programme which will re-equip the air forces of its participants, Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain; and the Airbus Industrie consortium of Britain, France, West Germany and Spain, which is developing a family of airliners with capacities

## The countries of Europe are putting up a strong challenge to the leading world manufacturers, the United States and Soviet Union

ranging from 150 to 300 seats. There are also several smaller cross-border projects. These include the ATR 42 and 72, two twin turbo-prop airliners developed jointly by Italy and France, the Dutch Fokker 100 airliner, with Short Brothers of Belfast responsible for the wing development and MBB of West Germany for large parts of the fuselage and the tail; and the Alpha Jet military trainer, a joint Franco-West German design.

The trend which has led to the creation of this powerful industrial base can be traced back 25 years to the agreement between Britain and France to design, develop and build the Concorde supersonic airliner. That accord flew through some extreme political and financial turbulence, but it resulted in a product which was technically successful and which laid the foundations for today's pan-European, aircraft-building business.

That business has not only resulted in record exports of aerospace goods from Europe, it has considerably reduced imports of US products to the Continent. Before the countries of Europe banded together, US companies were the main suppliers of civil and military aircraft to European airlines and air forces. However, many orders which would have gone their way have recently been filled by Airbus Industrie or the Panavia consortium producing the Tornado.

It is not a situation which the Americans have accepted with equanimity. They complained to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) organisation that Airbus had an unfair advantage in the world market because of subsidies handed out for production and marketing by the four partner governments.

In reply, the Europeans alleged that US aerospace companies benefited from the development

of civil aircraft built with US government money allocated to military projects. The case has rumbled on for years, with the latest development being a move by the European Commission to agree to cut production subsidies. The Americans may now withdraw their case from GATT.

Airbus says it hopes to take about one-third of the world market for airliners. It is well on the way towards that target, with a manufacturing backlog on some models which means that an airline which orders at this year's Farnborough show will have to wait at least three years for delivery. The consortium has three airliner types in service: the 300-seat A300, the A310 and the 150-seat A320. It has three others under development, the A321, which is a larger version of the A320, the A330, a wide-body airliner with intercontinental range, and the A340, with a 7,000-mile range which will take it non-

stop from European capitals to points in the Far East.

West German participation in the Airbus, Tornado and European Fighter Aircraft consortia has been strengthened this year with the rolling up of most of the aerospace industry in that country into Daimler-Benz.

The West German industry is sufficiently confident to embark on its own commuter airliner, the Dornier 328. It is also designing a twin-jet airliner with the Chinese.

Several other European nations have independent projects, or are in partnership with aerospace industries elsewhere. France is developing an advanced fighter, the Rafale; Sweden is going it alone with its Gripen fighter, while also making the Saab 340 commuter airliner. The Dutch have two new airliners at the same time, the Fokker 50 and the Fokker 100. Italy is working with Brazil on the AM-X, a single-seat tactical fighter-bomber and the Spanish have a joint project for a light transport aircraft with the aerospace industry of Indonesia.

ARTHUR REED

# Hubble, Hubble, toil and trouble

The Magellan spacecraft's pictures of Venus has brought success in man's endeavours to discover more about the universe

Successes in space this year have been obscured by the disappointment about the flaw in the \$1.5 billion Hubble space telescope and doubts about the safety of the planned Freedom space station to be launched by the United States in five years.

One of the year's achievements came when Japan launched its moon-bound scientific spacecraft early on, causing the established space nations to fear for the loss of their lead in yet another field of high technology. However, interest in the Japanese achievement was soon superseded by other events.

The Magellan spacecraft, launched from the shuttle Atlantis last December, made a spectacular encounter last month with Venus, peering through dense clouds of carbon dioxide and sulphuric acid that shroud the planet.

Venus is Earth's sister planet in terms of size and geological structure, but being 26 million miles closer to the Sun, its atmosphere has evolved rather differently. Scientists believe gases escaping from volcanoes accumulated in the atmosphere to produce a runaway greenhouse effect and searing surface temperatures of 500°C.

Another success came with collaboration between Britain, West Germany and the US on a scientific spacecraft called the Rosat (Roentgensatellit) X-ray Astronomy project. The Rosat is making a systematic survey of the whole celestial sky from orbit to produce a unique star chart of all the objects emitting "invisible light" from the far ultraviolet to soft X-rays.

A pioneer in the design of space-based X-ray astronomy telescopes, Professor Ken Pounds, of Leicester University, has led the British team that developed one of the two cameras from which a new type of star catalogue will be compiled.

Meanwhile with a new value-for-money philosophy, the Soviet space programme looks ripe for reshaping. The fascination with the test last year of the Soviet Union's huge new workhorse, the Energia launcher, with a lift-off mass of 2,400 tonnes, has faded in the changed political circumstances. Although the new rocket might play a central role in the future, journeys and landing on Mars in an international venture with the United States next century, a more immediate goal is to

make commercial capital from proven Soviet vehicles for launching communications, weather and earth resources satellites for fee-paying foreign customers.

The Soviets also caused a stir among its western competitors earlier this year when it joined the Australians in the development of the first privately owned international spaceport at Cape York, north Queensland. They are offering attractively priced launches from the Australian site from 1995, using a proven powerful Russian vehicle called Zenit.

The Zenit family, which first flew in 1985, is an advance on Proton technology. The new vehicle will place payloads of over 15 tonnes into a low Earth orbit or satellites of up to 2.4 tonnes in the geostationary orbit 22,250 miles above the equator.

While the international struggle to produce the most powerful but cheapest commercial satellite launchers continues, a fascinating and successful development has been in progress in the small-but-beautiful category, pioneered by a British research team.

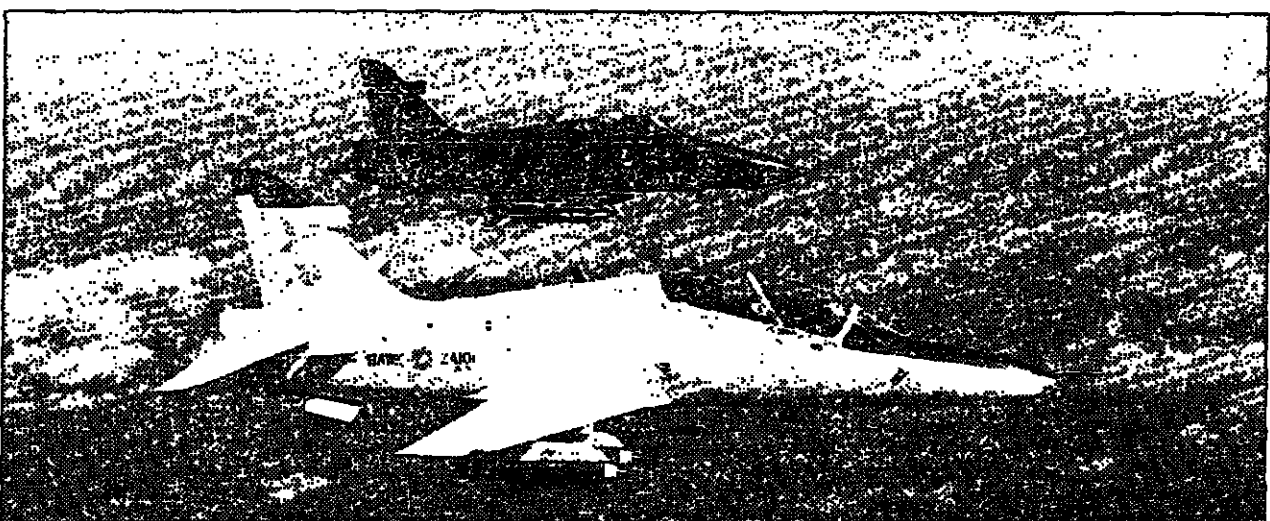
The world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, was 58cm in diameter and weighed in under 84kg, relaying signals for 21 days and staying in orbit for 96 days.

In a reversal of that trend, Surrey Satellite Technology, a branch of Surrey University, devised the first family of cheap, lightweight satellites, known as LightSats. They are launched cheaply as piggy-back payloads, which in effect hitch a lift when a larger spacecraft is fired into orbit.

Progress is also being made in rectifying the fault on the Hubble. Instead of providing special electronic cameras with the sharpest image obtained by an optical telescope, the light collected by the main 2.4 metre mirror of the Hubble is focused on a slightly blurred image. Scientists hope to correct the fault by installing extra small lenses in front of the cameras.

Experts at the Space Telescope Centre, at the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington, have still to establish the precise nature of the flaw in the telescope's optics before planning one of the most delicate operations to be conducted in space by the astronauts who will make the repair.

PEARCE WRIGHT



The Hawk in action: BAe has healthy orders for the jet trainer/light fighter it has produced with McDonnell Douglas

The British aerospace manufacturing industry goes to Farnborough with business buoyant, but with the shadow of job losses ahead if proposed defence cuts are carried through.

In Britain, about 200,000 people are directly employed in the production of aviation "hardware", 35,000 of them in the aviation electronics (avionics) sector. The Society of British Aerospace Companies estimates that a further 250,000 owe their jobs indirectly to this sector (Arthur Reed writes). The split in financial turnover between defence and civil products is about 65/35.

The industry produces more than 2 per cent of Britain's gross domestic product, and annual exports usually exceed £5 billion, placing it second in the world league to the United States.

The leaders of aerospace in Britain are, however, worried by the trend towards scaling down defence spending

## Targeting the civil market

Aircraft manufacturers are having to become less dependent on the military

against the background of defence cuts on offer, although, with the exception of the Slingsby company, it has virtually moved out of light-aircraft manufacture, a sector dominated by the US and France. At the heavy-aircraft end of the market, British Aerospace (BAe) produces the

wings for the family of airliners made by Airbus Industrie, in which it is a 20 per cent partner. The largest airliner assembled in Britain is the BAe 146, a model which is selling well in three main versions, offering between 90 and 130 seats, in areas of the world where there are stringent airport noise restrictions. Other 146 variants include a freighter, a military cargo-carrier, and the Statesman, designed for the transport of heads of state.

Below the 146 in size, BAe produces the Advanced Turbo Prop, a twin-engine, 60-seater, the Jetstream Super 31, an 18-seat turbo-prop commuter aircraft and the 125-800 and the BAe 1000, two executive jets.

Sales of the Jetstream 31 remain strong, particularly in North America, where it has found a niche as an aircraft which feeds passengers into the airports in big cities from those in outlying towns. BAe's business jets also continue to sell well. The 1000, a long-range version of the 125-800, made its maiden flight as recently as June.

Short Brothers of Belfast, continues to market its SD360 twin turbo-prop, 36-seat airliner around the world, but is now gearing up to produce large sections of the Regional Jet, a twin-jet, 50-seat airliner, for the Canadian company Bombardier, which acquired Shorts last year.

On the military side, by far the most important project for

the future for UK aerospace is the European Fighter aircraft (EFA), a four-nation partnership involving Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain. So far, the EFA has remained untouched by reductions in defence spending, although the partner governments have yet to take the big financial decision to go ahead with full production.

The project is at the development stage, with fuselage sections for prototypes in the jigs at BAe's plant at Warton. The first flight is due at the end of next year.

The EFA programme calls for 800 aircraft to be shared among the four partner air forces and development costs are £5.5 billion.

BAe had hoped that production of Tornado fighter/bombers would fill its factories in the northwest of England until EFAs come on stream, but cancellation of an order of 33 Tornados for the RAF will leave a gap.

This could result in layoffs. Rolls-Royce, a partner in the manufacture of the RB199 engine for the Tornado, described the cancellation of aircraft for the RAF as "a heavy blow", adding that any thought that production could be switched to other items was unrealistic.

The company says: "Our skills and working practices centre on high-technology aero-engine manufacture and support, and would not permit profitable participation in widely-differing markets, such as consumer goods."

BAe has healthy order books for both the Hawk jet trainer/light fighter and the Harrier vertical take-off and landing fighter. BAe is in partnership on both these aircraft with McDonnell Douglas, producing a version of the Hawk for the US Navy, and of the Harrier for the US Marines.

# New eastern promises

Soviet design and technology are pushing back the frontiers

The arrival of an Antonov An 225 transport, two Mikoyan MiG-29s and two Sukhoi Su-27 fighters at Farnborough, gives western experts a golden opportunity to assess the state of Soviet aerospace technology (Arthur Reed writes).

Assuming that the spirit of glasnost extends to tours of the aircraft cockpits, they will find that the Soviet aircraft industry is moving rapidly away from its former reputation as a builder of aerodynamically inefficient, fuel-hungry machines to one making aircraft which match those emerging from factories in the West.

Western experts will be disappointed in not being able to view the Ilyushin 11-114 turbo-prop airliner prototype which began its test flying programme earlier this year. The Soviets had listed the aircraft as an entrant for Farnborough, but cancelled just before the show for "technical reasons".

British Aerospace executives would be particularly keen to examine it, because this six-seater appears to be similar in configuration to their Advanced Turbo-Prop (ATP) 60-seater which, until recently, BAe was hoping to sell to Aeroflot, the Soviet airline.

All of the Soviet aircraft due at the show have performed before in the West, notably at last summer's Paris aviation salon at Le Bourget, where the MiG-29 hit the world's headlines by crashing when one of its two engines failed at low altitude. Anatoly Kvotichur, the pilot, ejected unscathed and later told his story at a press conference in the cavernous hold of the six-engine An-225, the world's biggest aircraft, which had arrived in Paris carrying a Soviet space shuttle vehicle.

Although the MiG-29's display was so dramatically truncated, it had done enough to convince defence experts at the show that it would be a serious challenger to the current generation of US fighters, such as the F-15, F-16 and F-18.

Farnborough is being de-



Cancellation? The V-22 Osprey may be one of the victims of European détente

ned a chance to see two of the latest Soviet airliners, the Ilyushin 11-96-300 and the Tupolev Tu-204, both of which were at the Paris show last year. These showed that the Soviet Union is well into the era of computer-controlled aircraft. Instrumentation on the flight decks was displayed on full-colour cathode ray screens, similar to those installed in the Boeing 757, 767 and 747-400, while the Soloviev engine that powers both (four in the case of the 11-96, two on the Tu-204) was said by the Soviets to be capable of flying 5,000 hours between overhauls.

Soviet-made jet engines have always had a poor maintenance record and, if the 5,000 hours claim is true, then Soviet airlines can start to compete with the products of aerospace companies in the West.

However, this state of affairs is probably still some way off and, in the meantime, Aeroflot, and almost all the other east European airlines, continue to place orders with Airbus Industrie and Boeing for A310s and 767s to fly their international routes. One of the main reasons for this is that the engines that power the present generation of Soviet-built airliners are unable to meet the increasingly stringent noise standards being introduced at airports in the West and the Far East.

The military sector of the United States aerospace in-

dusty continues to direct much of its research effort into "stealth" - that is, giving new fighters and bombers the ability to fly towards enemy territory without being picked up on radar. This means the arrow-shaped B-2 bomber and F-117 fighter are constructed largely of composites, rather than metals, so they do not reflect radar transmissions, while their engines are buried in the wings and their exhausts are partially shielded to avoid detection by heat-seeking devices.

However, the threat of massive cuts in the US defence budget raises the question whether these advanced aircraft, and several others which are at the development and flight-test stage, will survive. As an insurance, American manufacturers are proposing updates of existing aircraft, such as the F-14 and the F-16, but the future hopes of the American aerospace industry still remain fastened to the Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF).

The US government has commissioned two consortia to build prototypes for a "fly-off" next year but, in the meantime, Dick Cheney, the US defence secretary, has called for a two-year extension of the programme as part of the plan to reduce defence spending against the background of détente between East and West.

Other programmes threat-

ened by US defence cutbacks include the B-2 (a reduction from 132 aircraft to 75), the C-17 military transport (down from 210 aircraft to 120), the A-12 naval attack aircraft (reduced from 858 aircraft to 546) and the V-22 Osprey (recommended cancellation).

It is the fate of the Osprey, being developed by a partnership of Bell and Boeing, which has caused most uproar in the US on grounds that its design marks an aviation revolution. The Osprey is a tilt-rotor, a helicopter in take-off and landing mode, but which swivels its rotors through 90 degrees once in the air to become a traditional turbo-prop airliner, capable of speeds of 300mph. The US Marine Corps wants to acquire it to land troops and equipment, and it could be used as an airliner operating to city centres.

Countries as diverse as Brazil, Israel, Argentina and Finland have brought aircraft to this Farnborough show, an indication of the growing aerospace muscle being developed by smaller nations. The big three manufacturing areas, the United States, Europe and the Soviet Union, do not yet regard these newcomers as a threat. But the time could soon come when the products of this new group of manufacturers, particularly those from Japan, Korea and Taiwan, could, with their low wage rates, begin to undercut those of the West.

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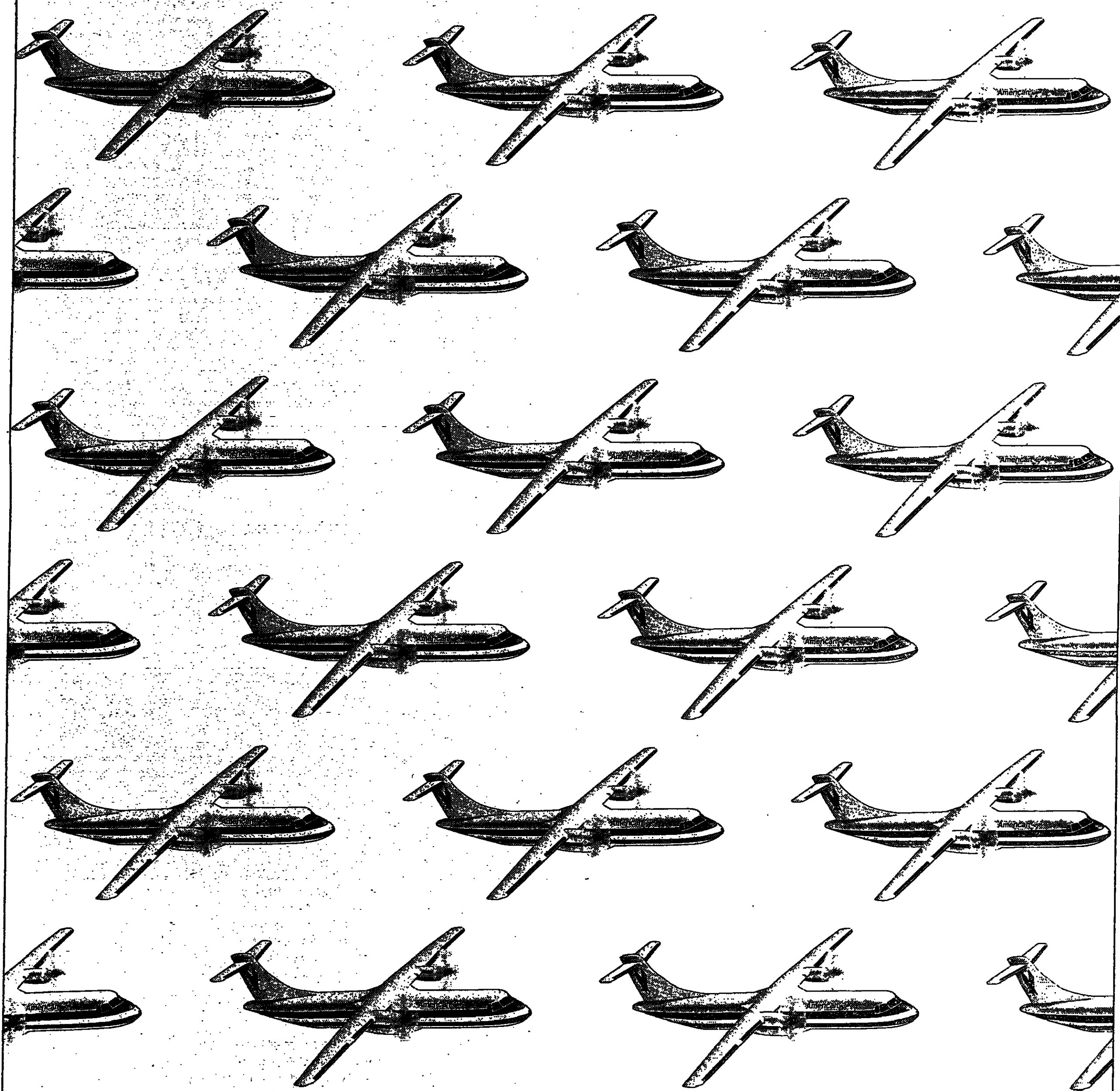


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## T H E T O T A L S Y S T E M



## Back-up power

Hi-tech teams show their best

RADAR manufacturers and companies which forge rivets, those that design computers which design aircraft, cockpit seat-makers and the firms that make ejector seats will be out in force at Farnborough.

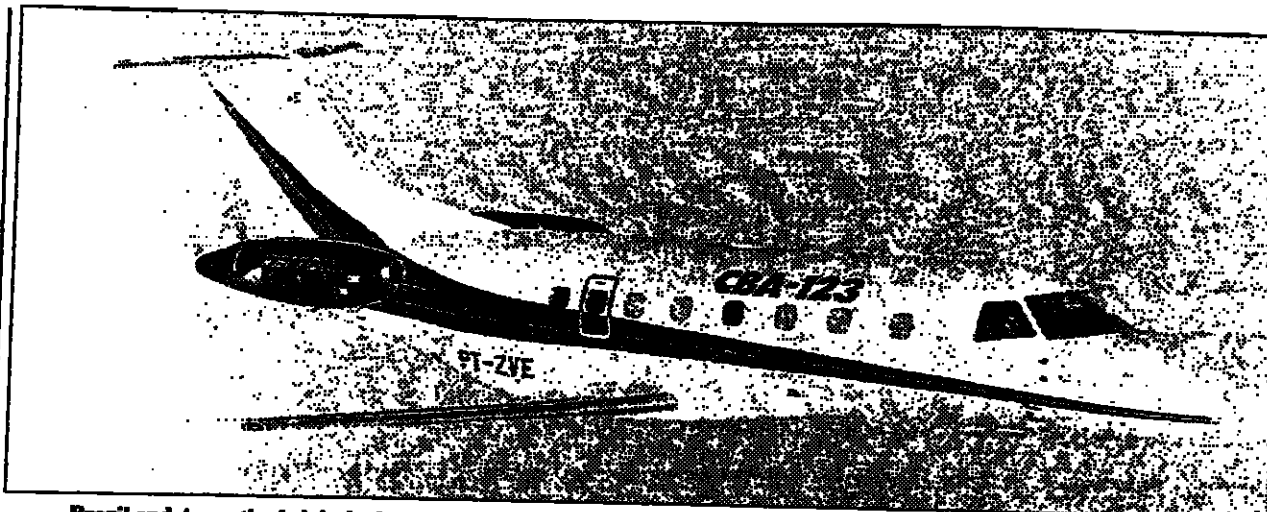
Leading the sales campaign will be specialists in aviation electronics, who are worried that the defence side of the business may be winding down (Arthur Reed writes). The UK Electronics and Business Equipment Association said before the show opened: "The dramatic changes of political climate in Europe, from armed confrontation to peaceful co-existence, have inevitable industrial side-effects. However... the widespread diversification of recent years has greatly reduced much of the industry's dependence on defence contracts."

One example of this comes from Lucas Aerospace, manufacturer of a wide range of high-tech equipment for the aerospace industry. Antony Edwards, managing director of Lucas, says that the company's business split between civil and military will be 58/42 in two years' time.

Equipment to help clear the traffic jam in the skies of Europe will be demonstrated by the UK Civil Aviation Authority, which has installed a high-powered new computer at its air traffic control centre near Heathrow to back up its air traffic controllers.

Makers of composite materials such as carbon fibres, which are starting to replace the traditional aerospace metals in some load-bearing sections of aircraft, will be setting out their stalls.

With the rising price of aviation fuel as a result of the Middle East dispute, companies making simulators will be optimistic about their sales chances, on the ground that their devices, which replicate precisely for training purposes the flight controls and movement of an airliner or a fighter, do not run on kerosene, do not offend the environmental lobby, and can be "flown" for 20 hours a day.



Brazil and Argentina's jointly developed Embraer CBA-123 Vector, a 19-seat regional airliner with twin propellers

## High-flying business

International demand is growing for small business aircraft capable of carrying anything from six to 80 or so passengers, and the competition between manufacturers is intense.

British Aerospace hopes to take a large slice of this booming market with the BAe 1000, which makes its debut at Farnborough.

The twin-engined BAe 1000, first flown in June this year, is a redesigned, stretched version of the bestselling BAe 125-800. It can seat eight passengers and fly non-stop across the Atlantic or coast to coast in the United States.

Since the first 125 was delivered in 1962, BAe have sold 770 of all versions of the aircraft and it is now used by 516 operators in 40 countries.

Also on display will be the BAe 146 four-engine jet, which was first launched in 1978. Carrying between 94 and 103 passengers, usually on short runs of up to 400 miles, the 146 is still considered the quietest jet in the world. The fleet of 276 now in service has made more than a million flights and accumulated 940,000 flying hours. Another 337 are on order. British Aerospace hopes to break further into the regional jet aircraft market with two more versions of the 146, the RJ 70 and the RJ 80.

Slightly smaller is the advanced turboprop, the ATP, which, although suffering from technical snags since it was put into service in 1988, still offers some of the lowest

New planes for the corporate market are being given greater capabilities as competition grows, Harvey Elliott writes

operating costs in the 64-10-72 passenger market.

Smaller still is the Jetstream 41, whose predecessor, the Jetstream 31, has proved a bestseller in the United States. The Jetstream 41 will retain all the proven features of the 19-seat 31 series but will accommodate 29 passengers in its cabin. The first flight of the Jetstream 41 is planned for early summer 1991, and first deliveries will be made the

following autumn. Perhaps the most exciting regional jet is the 50-passenger Canadair RJ, which has already been ordered by nine airlines, although it will not be ready for delivery until the second quarter of 1992. It is a derivative of the popular Challenger 601 business aircraft, but it has a 20ft fuselage stretch and other modifications to ensure its long-term reliability. It will be powered by two General Electric CF 34-3A turbofan engines, which permit operations at noise-sensitive airports and which give a cruise speed of 530 mph and a range of up to 1,700 miles.

The RJ, built partly by Shorts in Belfast, will have the same payload and range as

many turboprops but will be able to cover the same distance in half the time, a prime selling point. Priced between \$14 million and \$16 million it will compete with many existing propeller-driven aircraft and allow operators to move into the jet market without financially crippling themselves. It is expected that between now and the year 2000, about 4,000 new turboprop aircraft will be needed to fill predicted demand for airliners in the 13- to 72 seat range. About 3,000 of them will have to be able to seat between 30 and 60 passengers.

About 4,000 turboprop aircraft will be needed in the next ten years

The competition here, too, is intense. Companies such as Deutsche Aerospace, the big new German consortium, produce a plane, the Dornier 328, whose cabin will offer its 30 to 33 passengers the comfort of a jet airliner combined with a high cruise speed. The 328, ready for delivery in late 1992, is expected to prove as popular as the smaller propeller-driven Dornier 228.

Saab's equally successful 35-passenger 340 series is now being stretched to become the 50-passenger Saab 2000 and is

also attracting a lot of interest.

Embraer, the Brazilian aircraft builder, will be highlighting its CBA-123 Vector, a 19-seat regional airliner with twin propellers, which has been developed jointly with Argentina. The advanced design and use of the latest avionics, composite materials and modern manufacturing, with the unusual rear-mounted engines which provide jet-type speed and quietness, have convinced Embraer that the CBA-123 will be a bestseller. The company plans to produce 60 aircraft a year by 1993.

All eyes are certain to be on the futuristic Soviet-American supersonic business jet, a scale model of which will be on display in the American pavilion. The Rolls-Royce-powered executive jet will be capable of flying between London and New York faster than Concorde and has been designed jointly by Gulfstream of the United States and Russia's Sukhoi team. The maiden flight is planned in 18 months and the jet will go on sale after 1995 at a price of about £30 million. It will be able to carry between six and 18 passengers 5,000 miles at 1,500 mph, and the first prototype will be built in the Soviet Union, where essential components will be tested on an Si-27 Flanker fighter.

With all the excitement now being generated by small commuter aircraft it is not surprising that the European Regional Airlines Association has taken a stand at the show.

## Roar of rival turbos

Big profits are at stake as engine makers push power

WHEN Sir Frank Whittle claimed 50 years ago that his new jet engine, then capable of producing a little over 1,000 lb of thrust, would eventually produce 10,000 lb, everybody thought he was mad.

At Farnborough this year, a new engine with a diameter as wide as the fuselage of a Boeing 737 will be on show and the talk will be about 100,000 lb of thrust (Harvey Elliott writes).

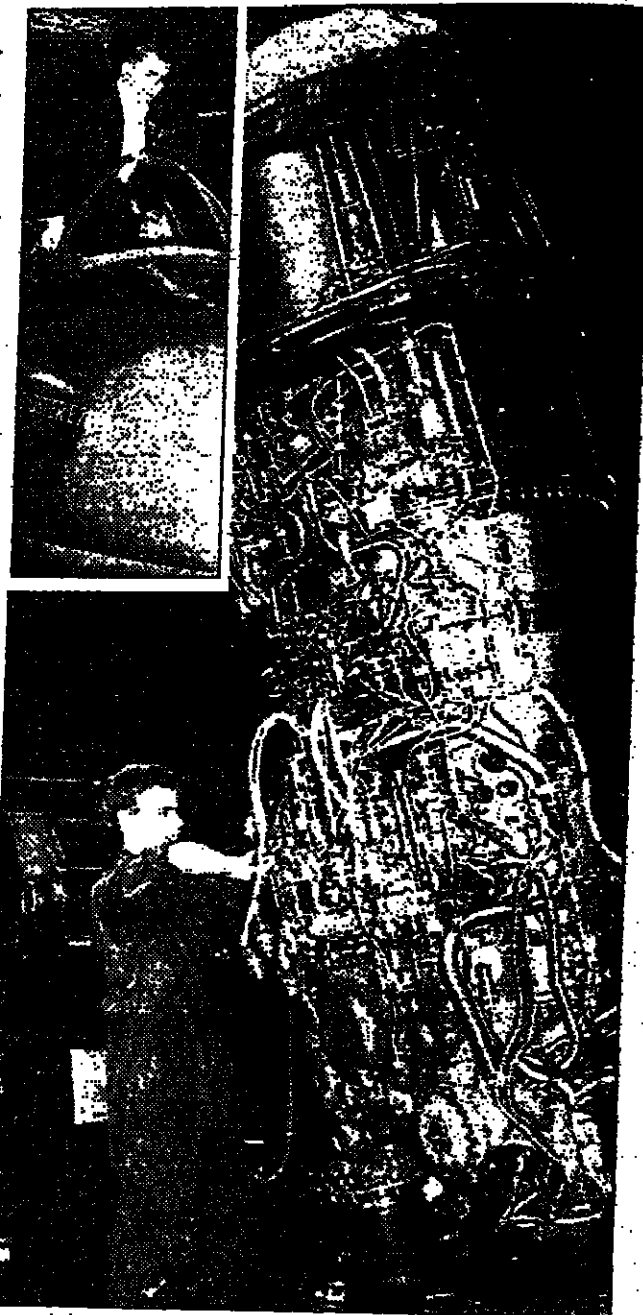
Three main manufacturers dominate the world's aero engine market and they are embroiled in a battle for supremacy in a market potentially worth \$50 billion over the next 20 years.

Boeing is about to launch its long-range twin-engine jet, the 777. Engines of a size never before contemplated will be needed to carry its 350 passengers more than 4,500 miles non-stop.

The airlines which will eventually buy the 777, or its European rival, the Airbus A330, want proof that the huge new engines made by Rolls-Royce, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric will use less fuel than the existing engines, be quieter and be reliable.

GE Aircraft Engines hopes to steal a march on its rivals by unveiling a full-scale model of the GE90, a 75,000-to-95,000 lb thrust, high-bypass turbofan engine capable of powering all new wide-body aircraft that may enter the market in the mid-1990s and beyond. The design, being produced in partnership with French and West German companies, should be ready in mid-1995.

The new engine, says GE, will cut fuel consumption by as much as ten per cent and will dramatically reduce emissions and noise levels. Its American rival, Pratt & Whitney, whose engines now power about three-quarters of the world's jet transport fleet, does not intend developing an entirely new engine, but claims it can increase the thrust of its existing PW4000 from the present 60,000 lb to almost 100,000 lb.



RB199 Tornado engine and (inset) Sir Frank Whittle, the jet engine's British inventor, with a Gloster jet

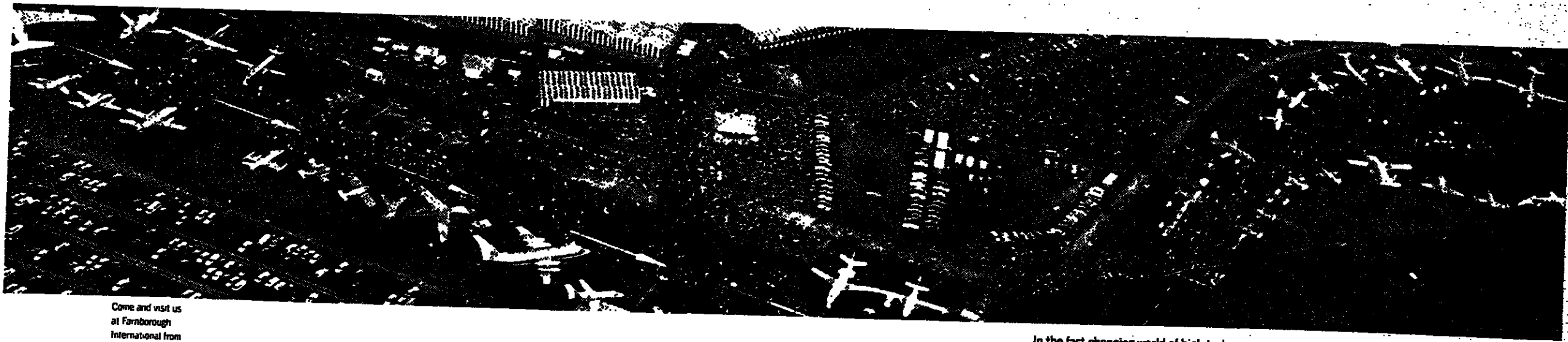
Rolls-Royce is working on a part-derivative, part-new engine known as the Trent. Development costs are about £300 million, probably about half as much as for the GE90, and its thrust potential will exceed 80,000 lb. The Trent is the first of the 20-year-old RB211 family to be given a name. Each engine could cost £5 million.

Which company will emerge as winner will not be known for several years. It

could be 13 years before any of those involved make profits.

There will be fierce competition, too, for less-glamorous, but equally important engines. The five-nation consortium known as International Aero Engines, of which Rolls-Royce is a member, is making great inroads into the smaller twin-engine aircraft market with the V2500. The engine has been cleared for service on the Airbus A320.

The start of something new.



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In the fast-changing world of high technology, there is always something new. This year at Farnborough it is Deutsche Aerospace - a young enterprise operating in aircraft, space, defense and propulsion systems as well as environmental, medical, energy, materials and automation technology.

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# THE TIMES DEGREE COURSE VACANCY SERVICE

## Polytechnics and Colleges

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Worcester: 01902 4100  
Dorset: 01797 2100

### Accountancy

Brighton: 01323 5500  
Dorset: 01797 2100

### Business Studies

Brighton: 01323 5500  
Dorset: 01797 2100

### Engineering

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Dorset: 01797 2100

### Health Studies

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Dorset: 01797 2100

### Law

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### Life Sciences

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### Physical Sciences

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### Social Sciences

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## Today The Times publishes a list of vacancies remaining for degree courses in British Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Higher Education.

The lists are compiled from the Campus 2000 educational database service. The information has been supplied by the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) and the Polytechnics Central Admissions System (PCAS). The figures in brackets indicate the course code used by UCCA and will assist students in determining whether the course is similar to their original choice. The number in brackets next to the university name indicates the minimum acceptable grades, expressed as points, that will be considered.

**GCE 'A' Levels:** grade A 10 points; grade B 8 points; grade C 6 points; grade D 4 points; grade E 2 points. A maximum of 3 'A' Levels is counted. **GCE 'AS' Levels:** grade A 5 points; grade B 4 points; grade C 3 points; grade D 2 points; grade E 1 point.

**SCE Higher Examinations:** all universities welcome applications from candidates with SCE Highers, but the minimum grades

required cannot be readily expressed in simple arithmetical scores.

Some of the Polytechnics may offer several courses with different course titles. These courses are modular and will include study in a variety of subjects, one of which is in the title. Applicants should consult their PCAS and UCCA handbooks for more information about the courses offered. It should be noted that many degree courses in Scotland are of 4 years duration. In some areas of study well-qualified candidates may be admitted direct to the second year.

**Campus 2000, The Education Computer Network from British Telecom and The Times,** provides full lists of all degree course vacancies, available to approximately 10,000 educational establishments, including 200 Local Education Authority Careers Offices. Vacancy lists are also available to Prestel, ECTIS 2000 and Telecom Gold users.

Periodically during the vacancy service, The Times will produce lists of LEA Careers Offices and their telephone numbers from which students can get professional advice.

Engineering with Modern Languages

London (East): H80, H71  
London (West): H80, H71  
London (South): H80, H71

English as a Foreign Language

London (East): H80, H71  
London (West): H80, H71  
London (South): H80, H71

Environmental Biology

London (East): H80, H71  
London (West): H80, H71  
London (South): H80, H71

Environmental Engineering

London (East): H80, H71  
London (West): H80, H71  
London (South): H80, H71

Environmental Management

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London (South): H80, H71

Environmental Science

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London (West): H80, H71  
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Environmental Studies

London (East): H80, H71  
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London (South): H80, H71

European Business

London (East): H80, H71  
London (West): H80, H71  
London (South): H80, H71

European Studies

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European Studies

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**English**  
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# Clipping fancied to confirm promise of Newbury debut

By MANDARIN

HENRY Cecil has never hesitated to send his best young horses to Nottingham. On So Sharp, the filly's Triple Crown winner, made a successful debut here, while the Derby winner, Ship Anchor, also gained his first success on the track.

Cecil now takes another potentially smart performer to the Midlands course in the shape of Clipping, who is named to win the 26-runner Usher Walker Maiden Fillies Stakes.

There is a saying in racing that the bigger the field, the bigger the certainty, and while that may be overstating the case, Clipping does hold particularly bright prospects. The daughter of Kris made an encouraging debut when third to Zonda in a competitive maiden at Newbury last month and is likely to improve for the run.

Engagements in the Cheveley Park Stakes and Brent Walker Mile underline the

high regard in which she is held and, if she is to be taken seriously for those races, she should win this.

With so many newcomers in the line-up, the market is likely to provide the best guide to the opposition.

Cecil and Steve Causton will be looking for a double with Adamik in the Canadian Pacific Newsprint Final Score Stakes, in which Cecil also runs Cavalanti. However, I prefer Northern Hal.

He made a winning seasonal debut here, beating Lord

Of Tumor, and has since run respectably in better company, notably when second to Arzanni at Windsor in July, the pair ten lengths clear.

That Windsor form has come to look ever more solid. Arzanni was subsequently second to Tarikhana at Newbury, and the winner collected another good prize at Chester on Saturday.

Despite another big field, the Nottingham Evening Post Maiden Stakes seems to concern chiefly Circus Light and Matabih. Circus Light, a son of

The Oaks winner Circus Plume, has scope for improvement, but I side with Matabih.

He has two good seconds to his credit, including when beaten only a short head by Caerdydd at Ascot last time, and on that form looks capable of winning a maiden.

Willie Carson, Matabih's jockey, could complete a treble with My Alma, second to Cherry Dance in a valuable seller at York last time and likely to be suited by the return to five furlongs in the Denis Coxon Nursery Handicap, and the front-running Navarrese, who is not

harshly treated in the Letterflex Handicap.

Gordon Richards and George Moore have made fine starts to the National Hunt season and both should keep up the good work at Hexham.

Richards has clear double prospects with Pyamas (3.45) and Mister Tuffie (4.15), while Moore will be entertaining similar possibilities with Azubah (2.15) and Magic At Dawn (4.45).

## Old Vic at Nottingham

HENRY Cecil is to gallop Old Vic at Nottingham this afternoon as part of the dual Derby winner's preparation for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (Michael Seely writes).

"The ground is very firm at Newmarket and we also want to get Old Vic's adrenalin going," said the trainer yesterday. "He's still likely to run in the Prix Foy at Longchamp."

Cecil added that River God remains on target for the St

Leger but that no firm plans have been made for Belmont. "He's unlikely to run in the Arc," Cecil said. "Possible options are the Rothmans International and the Breeders' Cup Turf."

Spiritsail is to make his comeback in the September Stakes at Kempton on Saturday, while Michaelazzo and Brusa, aside have the Irish St Leger and the Cumberland Lodge Stakes as their respective targets.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.00 Miss Forzidare.  
2.30 MATABIH (asp).  
3.00 Cosmic Dancer.  
3.30 Safa.  
4.00 Arbor Vitae.  
4.30 Adamik.  
5.00 Regent's Inlet.

By Michael Seely

3.30 CLIPPING (asp). 4.30 Adamik. 5.00 Regent's Inlet.  
The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 5.00 NORTHERN HAL.

Going: good to firm Draw: 51-67; high numbers best SIS

2.0 DENIS COXON NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O; £3,125; 5f) (12 runners)

1 (1) 0013 SET OF A LARK 17 (J.P. Hargrave) R. Hargrave 9-0 W. Carson 58  
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Long heads: 7-1.  
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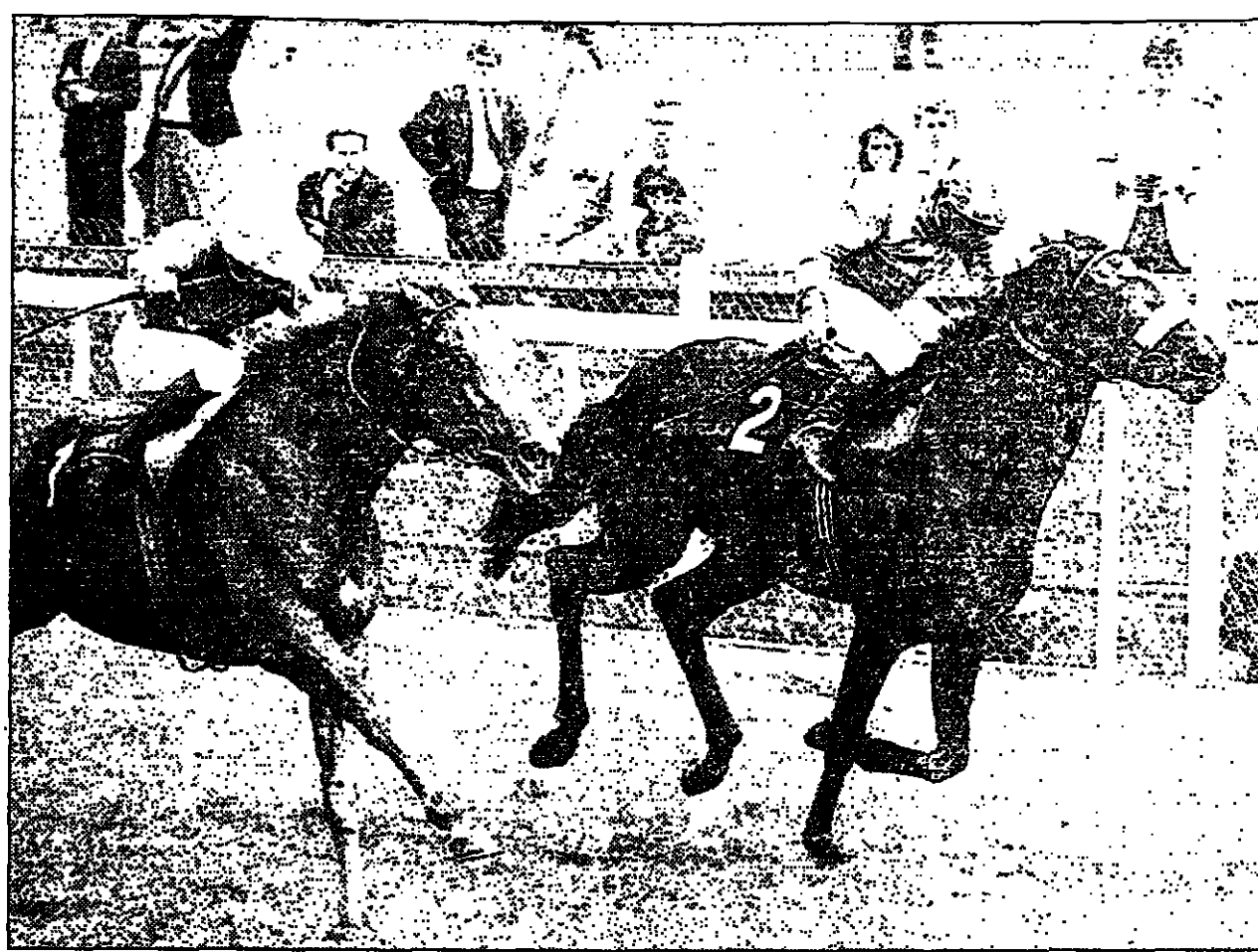
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Matabih, seen here finishing second to Caerdydd (left) at Ascot in July, has the third outing of his career at Nottingham today and will be among the leading contenders for the Nottingham Evening Post Maiden Stakes (2.30)

## Brave Elmaamul earns tilt at Champion double

FROM MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

THE lion-hearted Elmaamul galloped his way to a convincing victory in the Phoenix Champion Stakes at Phoenix Park yesterday and will now seek his third group one success in the Dubai Champion Stakes at Newmarket on October 20.

"He does nothing in a hurry," said Willie Carson after the 66-1 chance, ran the race of his life after Michael Roberts had set sail for home early in the straight. "He's still got some improvement in him."

"But they have a job to pass him once he's hit the front," said Ben Hanbury, who was winning on Saturday. "His next run is likely to be in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe."

Bathurst, after fighting for his head in the early stages, never settled and finished half a length away fourth. There are no excuses, said Ben Hanbury. "He just wasn't good enough."

Splash Of Colour, Vincent O'Brien's hitherto unbeaten three-year-old, was unable to raise his gallop in the last quarter of a mile and finished

sixth, in front of the French-trained Saumarez, who dropped back beaten early in the straight. Saumarez blew so hard after the race that he probably got his tongue over his bit," Steve Causton said.

Afterwards, Dick Hern, sitting in his wheelchair in the brilliant sunshine, held the trophy aloft in triumph. "Elmaamul's a real professional. Now we've found that ten furlongs is his best distance, there's no point in trying him over a longer trip. The ground here was perfect and it's such a pity that Phoenix Park is closing."

In his last four outings, Elmaamul has now finished third in the Derby, won the Eclipse, finished runner-up to In The Groove at York and now won Ireland's top group one all-aged race, which will be run at Leopardstown in 1991.

"The good thing makes all the difference to him," said Carson, who was winning on Saturday. "He's just not a horse that can't mount back after a four-day suspension."

Yesterday's winner was continuing the magnificent season enjoyed by Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, the finance

minister of Dubai, who also owns Salsabil and Dayjur. And among a host of promising two-year-olds are the Champagne Stakes-bound Mukaddamah and Mujahid.

"As Salsabil is likely to go for the Arc after running in the Prix Vermeille, the Champion now becomes an obvious target for Elmaamul," said Angus Gold, the Sheikh's racing manager.

Vincent O'Brien had no excuses for Splash Of Colour but confirmed that his July Cup winner, Royal Academy, will be flown to Lancashire on Saturday for a tilt at Dayjur and Dead Certain in the Ladbroke Sprint Cup.

Roberts, second on Sikeston, went one better when landing the listed Sprint for John Spearing on Vax Lady.

Big-race result

3.00 PHOENIX CHAMPION STAKES (Group 2; 2000m; 1m 100yd; 12 runners)

1, ELMAAMUL (W Carson, 2-1 fav); 2, Saumarez (M Roberts, 66-1); 3, Kestrel (S Causton, 11-1); 4, Dayjur (S Causton, 11-1); 5, Salsabil (S Causton, 11-1); 6, Splash Of Colour (S Causton, 11-1); 7, In The Groove (S Causton, 11-1); 8, Vax Lady (S Causton, 11-1); 9, Royal Academy (S Causton, 11-1); 10, Dead Certain (S Causton, 11-1); 11, Mujahid (S Causton, 11-1); 12, Mukaddamah (S Causton, 11-1).

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BETTING: 9-2 May Reef, 5-1 Unleashed Treasure, Village Pet, 11-2 My Alma, Spinellier, 5-1 Supremacy, 10-1 Set of a Lark, 12-1 Lucky Barkley, 14-1 others.  
1989: SMART LEE 8-4 T. Quinn (5-1) P. Cole 7-1

FORM FOCUS SET OF A LARK 2nd best 5f at Newmarket (12-1) by 11 lengths. He should improve for the run. He was well supported when second to Set of a Lark at Newmarket (12-1) by 11 lengths. He was well supported when second to Set of a Lark at Newmarket (12-1) by 11 lengths.

2.30 NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O colts & geldings; 25.010; 1m 50yd) (17 runners)

1 (1) 0013 SET OF A LARK 17 (J.P. Hargrave) R. Hargrave 9-0 W. Carson 58  
2 (2) 312323 SPINELLER 22 (J.P. Hargrave) R. Hargrave 9-0 W. Carson 58  
3 (3) 23122 SPINELLER 22 (J.P. Hargrave) R. Hargrave 9-0 W. Carson 58  
4 (4) 15230 TERNHART 17 (J.P. Hargrave) R. Hargrave 9-0 W. Carson 58  
5 (5) 15230 TERNHART 17 (J.P. Hargrave) R. Hargrave 9-0 W. Carson 58



The portents are ominous, as Liverpool have already shot clear in the first division standings with a perfect record

# Enigmatic Barnes seals Villa's fate

JOSEF Venglos is unequivocal in his assessment of Liverpool. "They are the best team in Europe." When urged to confirm the accuracy of his statement, Aston Villa's Czechoslovak manager said that, in his opinion, they are better even than AC Milan, who last season retained the European Cup.

If only Liverpool could have put his hypothesis to the test in the Continent's premier competition. As Venglos implicitly agreed, their superiority in the first division is so unmistakably clear that they promise to win the title by a comfortable margin again this season without being stretched to the limit.

Only their patience was extended at Anfield on Saturday, when Villa were beaten 2-1, in a fixture decided by members of England's World Cup squad. Beardsley, with typically twinkling feet, put Liverpool ahead and after Plant had equalised with a close-range header, Villa clung on to a position of respectability for an hour.

Kenny Dalglish was less than magnanimous when he suggested that Villa "perhaps came for a point". Even if foolhardy visitors do go to Anfield with a more adventurous policy, it will be changed inevitably by his own side. "Liverpool push every opponent back," Venglos said. "Many sides are pushed back more than we were."

He could not be accused of exaggeration if he was describing only the first half. Thereafter Villa resembled the first two rows of the Kop and Liverpool eventually amassed a total of 52 crosses, an astonishing figure which is unlikely to be surpassed in matches featuring the more prominent clubs this season.

"Anything other than a win for us would have been a travesty of justice," Dalglish justified. His opinion was wholly justified, but he might care to consider two questions. Why did Liverpool fail to convert any of their crosses and why persist with the play when it is so evidently unsuccessful?

Rather than playing directly to the strengths of Villa's efficient sweeper system (the aerial power of McGrath, Mountfield and Nielsen), Liverpool would have benefited from more deep runs. The odd long-range shot, as Barnes was to illustrate so spectacularly, was also worth trying.



Armed for battle: Rush, of Liverpool, on this occasion shields the ball from McGrath, the Aston Villa defender, but could not convert any of a half dozen chances in the game

Until Liverpool saw the whiteness of the penalty area markings, they might have been staging an exhibition of excellence specifically for the benefit of Venglos. In an interview in *The Times* on Saturday, he rightly claimed that the passing and the movement in the English game needs to be improved.

Liverpool have long mastered those arts, but they are comparatively deficient in another, that of goal-scoring. If Linaker were leading their attack, for instance, even the most blinkered of AC Milan's followers might be reluctant to see Venglos's theory put into practice. Liverpool would, in that case, be close to the ultimate side.

Rush has never been as prolific since he returned from Juventus. Several years ago, when his acceleration was still explosive, the damage he caused was invariably exces-

sive. Nowadays, as on Saturday, he is liable to miss half a dozen chances. Once, when put through, he allowed even the relatively ponderous McGrath to recover.

As it was, "we needed something special," Rush admitted, and Barnes provided it, notably with his right foot.

His drive, which cannoned in off the underside of the bar, sealed his own enterprising afternoon and stirred a familiar debate. How can the Footballer of the Year continue to shine so consistently for his club and yet be so negligible whenever he represents his country?

Graham Taylor, the England manager, has already provided the simple answer. Barnes will set off on numerous runs in every game for Liverpool, particularly at Anfield. England, unable to dominate internationals to

such an extent, may be able to release Barnes on perhaps five occasions. His freedom is further diminished by the competence of the opposition. Price, Villa's right back, might as well have been attempting to catch a blob of mercury.

Rush fears that the interest of Italian clubs, which faded instantly during the summer, could be renewed if the scouts see Barnes in such irresistible form. The destiny of the championship would be viewed in a different light should Barnes fulfil his own ambition and move abroad. Otherwise Liverpool, the only club to have collected maximum points, seem certain to go on extending their lead.

At first glance all of the other leading contenders have flaws. Arsenal are unlikely to score enough goals. Tottenham Hotspur will probably concede too many. Manchester United will be in-

consistent in both departments and Everton are in disarray. Leeds United and particularly Crystal Palace cannot be expected to maintain their initial challenge.

Nor can Villa, last season's runners-up, be optimistic of climbing so high. They have faltered ever since Taylor chose to buy Cascarino in the middle of March.

Villa have won four of 12 matches since he arrived and their scoring rate has declined. On the only two occasions they have claimed more than one goal, Oney shared the burden. Left largely on his own on Saturday, Cascarino was as effective as a tall ship drifting in the Red Sea.

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Referee: K. Hackett.

## MATCH FACTS

At Anfield.	Att: 38,061.	Ref: K S Hackett.
Home record v Aston Villa: W 41, L 11, D 13.		
HT: 1-1. LIVERPOOL 2 ASTON VILLA 1		
Scorers: Beardsley 14, Barnes 57	Platt 26	
Bookings: None	None	
Substitutions: None	None	
Shots (on target/total)	7 21	3 9
Goalkeeping (left/right)	4 4	2 2
Crosses (left/right)	30 22	10 8
Free kicks/pens conceded	8	9
Goalkeeping (left/right)	4 4	2 2
Goalkeeping (left/right)	4 4	2 2
Possession (gained/lost)	37 61	37 82
Player	Goal	Goal
Gribbelaar	1	1
Hysen	1	1
Abello	1	1
Whelan	1	1
Beardsley	1	1
Houghton	1	1
McNeill	1	1
Gray	1	1
McGovern	1	1
Mountfield	1	1
Nielsen	1	1
Dwyer	1	1
Platt	1	1
Coward	1	1
Cascarino	1	1
Unsubstituted	1	1
Unsubstituted	1	1

## Wilkinson thankful for Lukic

By IAN ROSS

Leeds United 3  
Norwich City 0

WHEN he would have been forgiven for an uncharacteristic grin of satisfaction, Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, preferred to isolate the negative aspects of his side's emphatic win.

"Norwich are a good first-division side and some of my lot acquired themselves very nicely, perhaps too nicely at times, because we nearly got too generous," he said.

Reference to the four occasions on which the opposition had sprung a rudimentary offside trap to threaten goal.

A combination of lamentable finishing and superb goal-keeping by Lukic ensured that Norwich failed to convert any of the chances. "We won 3-0, but Lukic played like Yashin and Banks rolled into one. If there is a better English goalkeeper then he must be a very good one," Wilkinson said.

It is eight years since Leeds United graced the first division, but the combination of total commitment and unyielding arrogance which characterized the club's more famous line-ups is already more than apparent.

Solid at the back and abnormally productive in midfield, where the immaculate Barry was at the hub of every move of consequence, Leeds played some faultless football, particularly in the opening half when they punished severely the complacency of their opponents.

Although Wilkinson is still anxious to sign a forward, he could have had few complaints about the performances of Chapman and Varadi. Despite an ungainly gait which often results in embarrassing blunders, Chapman found the target twice before the interval. In the twelfth minute he steered home from close range after Varadi had flicked on a Speed cross, and after 36 minutes he diverted home McAllister's astute pass as the Norwich defence appeared forlornly for offside. Norwich's spirited second-half comeback was ended in the 72nd minute when Varadi expertly headed Gunro after intercepting Bowen's atrocious back-pass.

"If you give them away at one end and do not score at the other end when you have the chance, you are not going to win many games," said Dave Stringer, the Norwich manager.

## Celtic swiftly crumple after a dubious goal

By IAN ROSS

Leeds United 3  
Norwich City 0

CELTIC'S troubles continue. On Saturday, in their first home League match of the season, the manner of their collapse against Aberdeen was alarming (Roddy Forsyth writes).

After a goalless and evenly contested first half Aberdeen hoisted a ball ahead of Mason, who appeared to be offside on the right. The Aberdeen forward shot low beneath Bonner.

Thereafter, Celtic were never in it and they fell further behind when Grant's cross found Connor free at the far post. The third goal, by Gillhaus, came after Diekanowski was caught in possession.

Aberdeen's victory put them at the top of the table, ahead of Dundee United on goal difference. United beat Motherwell at Tannadice when Cleland scored the only goal.

At Easter Road, Hibernian showed considerable resilience in a goalless draw with Rangers. The other Edinburgh club, Heart of Midlothian, dominated at Dunfermline but were beaten by goals from Moyes and McCall.

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consistent in both departments and Everton are in disarray. Leeds United and particularly Crystal Palace cannot be expected to maintain their initial challenge.

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## Luton's youth policy starts to pay off

By PETER ROBINSON

Southampton 1  
Luton Town 2

JIM RYAN clearly knew something the rest of us did not. Fresh from the most unlikely of "great escapes" at the end of last season, the Luton Town manager then allowed two of his most experienced players — Danny Wilson and Mick Kennedy — to leave before the start of this.

Such losses, without any expensive replacements, seemed to rule out any such Houdini acts in 1991. However, on the

evidence of this 90 minutes at least, Ryan was right and the pundits were wrong.

Two goals, from an inspired Elstrup, the Danish international, set up a victory Luton's youthful exuberance thoroughly deserved. Rideout's reply merely highlighted what might have been for Southampton.

Ryan admits he has taken a gamble, but he has the risk to worth it. "There comes a time," he said, "when you have to stop saying how good a young player may become and give him the chance to prove it. We looked at the money we had, how we could spend it, and decided

instead that the time had come to take the plunge with what we had."

One such young player is Julian James, aged 20, a calm, cultured left back. It was James who created Elstrup's opener after 18 minutes with a low through ball that left Southampton's defence stranded.

Southampton's rearguard was equally culpable for Elstrup's second, a finely judged, delicate header.

Southampton are bedevilled by inconsistency. Sometimes inspired, at others infuriating, they lamely chose to have an off

day. Le Tissier was their only hope of success but he was reduced to trying to do it all on his own, and without any luck to help him, failed. A brief, brilliant flurry at the start, a delicious turn and cross to provide Rideout with the simplest of goals, and several near misses after the break summed up his afternoon.

SOUTHAMPTON: T. Pinner, A. Charnick, R. G. Jones, K. Morgan, R. Carr, A. Le Tissier, B. Morris, P. Rideout, G. Coward, R. Hackett, R. Wallace (sub: A. Hackett, R. Wallace).

LUTON TOWN: A. Chamberlain, T. Breaker, J. James, D. McDonough (sub: R. G. Jones, K. Morgan, R. Carr, A. Le Tissier, B. Morris, P. Rideout, G. Coward, R. Hackett, R. Wallace).

Referee: D. Allison.

## West Ham manager calls for cohesion

Louise Taylor reviews the second division

NO MATTER how talented the individual players are, teams bereft of unity tend to find success elusive. The president of it at Upton Park is waving Billy Bonds, the manager of West Ham United, whose wrath was only slightly checked by a late penalty which gave his side a 1-0 win against a 10-man Watford on Saturday.

On paper West Ham have a lot going for them: Slater's powers of acceleration, Bushy's eye for a pass, the industry of Keen and Morley, and the defensive diligence of Dicks and Martin, not to mention a fully fit McAvanne in attack.

The trouble is in the absence of telepathy between those individuals, complicated by bouts of over-elaboration. As the manager put it: "Our passing is not early enough, we are complicating our game, and when we concede possession we do not chase the ball enough. We have got to use the ball earlier and give people less space."

Nevertheless, against Watford — who were rough rather than refined, and deservedly had Williams sent off following a second-half foul on Slater — West Ham invariably delivered, even when they delivered the ball into the opposition's penalty area. Just when it looked as if such forays had flattered to deceive, McAvanne flicked the ball on to Keen, who was headed down by a trio of Watford players, allowing Dicks to secure West Ham's first win of the season from the penalty spot.

Millwall's new manager believes that discipline on the field is the key to dynamics on it. So it proved against Barnsley on Saturday, Millwall winning 4-1 courtesy of goals from Allen, Rae, Carter, and Sheringham.

The meaning of pressure has apparently not been comprehended at Boundary Park, where Oldham Athletic's 3-1 win against Portsmouth left them at the top of the table with maximum points from three games. Similarly, Sheffield Wednesday romped to a 4-1 victory against Hull City at Hillsborough, where there were four goals from Hurst.

Newcastle United collected a useful away win at Blackburn Rovers through an O'Brien goal, and Tony Meola, the Stateside goalkeeper, made his debut for Brighton in the 1-1 home draw with Wolverhampton Wanderers.

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Gascoigne by Davis interrupted

Sunderland

Referee: J. Burnett.

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## Fairbrother's flair would be missed

# Hughes takes unfair advantage

after 15km (just under 10 miles)  
on the bike and was never

ملک میں اصلاح



# Rafferty reaches an Alpine summit as his rivals slip away

From PATRICIA DAVIES in CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, SWITZERLAND

RATHER to his surprise, Ronan Rafferty won the Ebel European Masters at Crans-Sur-Sierre yesterday, with his final round of 66, six under par, being matched only by Colin Montgomerie, who was not in contention for the major prizes.

In the rarified Alpine atmosphere of Crans, scores in the low 60s are common, and when Rafferty stepped off the 15th green after holing an eight-foot putt for a birdie four, his sixth birdie of the day, he checked the leaderboard and almost slipped back in amazement. He was 21 under par and, apparently, had a four-shot

## FINAL SCORES

68 and Ireland under par. Rafferty (68, 69, 68, 68, 288) led, followed by Montgomerie (69, 70, 69, 68, 285), and then by Colin Montgomerie (69, 70, 69, 68, 285). Rafferty's lead was 11 strokes ahead of Montgomerie, who was not in contention for the major prizes.

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four under par, was John Bland, of South Africa, with Jamie Spence, Rafferty's playing partner, third on his own on 270.

Rafferty won £76,636 for his second win of the season and moved to third place in the money list, behind Mark McNulty and Ian Woosnam. Rafferty did not seem keen on trying to retain first place on the Volvo Order of Merit he won last year, saying he did not think he would be playing much more in Europe this year.

With a gleam in his eye, he said he was not even sure he would be playing in the Panasonic European Open at Sunningdale, no distance from his home, this coming week. In a radio interview, he explained that he always found it difficult playing the week after a win but, when asked directly what would make him decide, he responded "Don't ask", only this time the gleam had a pound sign in it.

Two men with tears rather than gleams in their eyes yesterday were Mark Davis and Chris Williams, from the earlier regions of the Order of Merit, the 80s and 90s, the depths where appearance money is not a factor.

Both had believed they could win, but finished fourth and fifth in a race won by the East German, Jens-Peter Herold. We may not see much more of Cram as a 1,500 metres runner. Saturday's events may convince him to move up to 5,000 metres and the British men's sprint may be in the next month, starting with the IAAF grand prix final in Athens on Friday.

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# Elliott and Cram fail to share in the record nine gold athletics medals at Split



Four in harmony: Britain's record-breaking 4 x 400 metres squad at Split, Akabusi, Black, Sanders and Regis.

# Race for two Britons to forget

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
SPLIT

PETER Elliott and Steve Cram will waste no time in trying to put behind them the disappointment of their European championship 1,500 metres performance here on Saturday. Each is planning a series of races in the next month, starting with the IAAF grand prix final in Athens on Friday.

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# Gronberg continues charge against seasoned opponents

By JOHN HENNESSY  
SOFIA Gronberg, a recent recruit to the women's professional golf tour from Sweden, continued her spectacular recovery in the Variety Club Celebrity Classic at Calcut Park yesterday.

Her record round of 65 the day before had hoisted her to third place, four shots behind Katrina Douglas and Alison Nicholas. By the 11th hole yesterday, she had moved to fourth under par for the day, she stood at 13 under for the tournament. Whereas Gronberg, having driven the 255-yard 10th for her fourth

birdie, secured another at the 11th with a putt from 10 feet. Douglas, in the following match, took four, and Nicholas five. Nicholas had an early strike to secure a share with Douglas, holing from 30 feet for a birdie at the first. The long third yielded a four to the three main challengers, but Douglas fell foul of the "hell hole" in the middle of the fifth fairway and so dropped behind.

Thereafter, Nicholas and Douglas reeled pair after pair, until that unfortunate five for Nicholas at the 11th, both missing the chance of a birdie at the long sixth (471 yards). Gronberg, with her exceptional length, got her four there and followed it with a long putt for a two at the next.

RESULTS: 1. Sofia Gronberg (65, 65, 130); 2. Alison Nicholas (66, 66, 132); 3. Katrina Douglas (67, 67, 134); 4. Alison Nicholas (68, 68, 136); 5. Sofia Gronberg (69, 69, 138); 6. Katrina Douglas (70, 70, 140); 7. Alison Nicholas (71, 71, 142); 8. Sofia Gronberg (72, 72, 144); 9. Katrina Douglas (73, 73, 146); 10. Alison Nicholas (74, 74, 148); 11. Sofia Gronberg (75, 75, 150); 12. Katrina Douglas (76, 76, 152); 13. Alison Nicholas (77, 77, 154); 14. Sofia Gronberg (78, 78, 156); 15. Katrina Douglas (79, 79, 158); 16. Alison Nicholas (80, 80, 160); 17. Sofia Gronberg (81, 81, 162); 18. Katrina Douglas (82, 82, 164); 19. Alison Nicholas (83, 83, 166); 20. Sofia Gronberg (84, 84, 168); 21. Katrina Douglas (85, 85, 170); 22. Alison Nicholas (86, 86, 172); 23. Sofia Gronberg (87, 87, 174); 24. Katrina Douglas (88, 88, 176); 25. Alison Nicholas (89, 89, 178); 26. Sofia Gronberg (90, 90, 180); 27. Katrina Douglas (91, 91, 182); 28. Alison Nicholas (92, 92, 184); 29. Sofia Gronberg (93, 93, 186); 30. Katrina Douglas (94, 94, 188); 31. Alison Nicholas (95, 95, 190); 32. Sofia Gronberg (96, 96, 192); 33. Katrina Douglas (97, 97, 194); 34. Alison Nicholas (98, 98, 196); 35. Sofia Gronberg (99, 99, 198); 36. Katrina Douglas (100, 100, 200); 37. Alison Nicholas (101, 101, 202); 38. Sofia Gronberg (102, 102, 204); 39. Katrina Douglas (103, 103, 206); 40. Alison Nicholas (104, 104, 208); 41. Sofia Gronberg (105, 105, 210); 42. Katrina Douglas (106, 106, 212); 43. Alison Nicholas (107, 107, 214); 44. Sofia Gronberg (108, 108, 216); 45. Katrina Douglas (109, 109, 218); 46. Alison Nicholas (110, 110, 220); 47. Sofia Gronberg (111, 111, 222); 48. Katrina Douglas (112, 112, 224); 49. Alison Nicholas (113, 113, 226); 50. Sofia Gronberg (114, 114, 228); 51. Katrina Douglas (115, 115, 230); 52. Alison Nicholas (116, 116, 232); 53. Sofia Gronberg (117, 117, 234); 54. Katrina Douglas (118, 118, 236); 55. Alison Nicholas (119, 119, 238); 56. Sofia Gronberg (120, 120, 240); 57. Katrina Douglas (121, 121, 242); 58. Alison Nicholas (122, 122, 244); 59. Sofia Gronberg (123, 123, 246); 60. Katrina Douglas (124, 124, 248); 61. Alison Nicholas (125, 125, 250); 62. Sofia Gronberg (126, 126, 252); 63. Katrina Douglas (127, 127, 254); 64. Alison Nicholas (128, 128, 256); 65. Sofia Gronberg (129, 129, 258); 66. Katrina Douglas (130, 130, 260); 67. Alison Nicholas (131, 131, 262); 68. Sofia Gronberg (132, 132, 264); 69. Katrina Douglas (133, 133, 266); 70. Alison Nicholas (134, 134, 268); 71. Sofia Gronberg (135, 135, 270); 72. Katrina Douglas (136, 136, 272); 73. Alison Nicholas (137, 137, 274); 74. Sofia Gronberg (138, 138, 276); 75. Katrina Douglas (139, 139, 278); 76. Alison Nicholas (140, 140, 280); 77. Sofia Gronberg (141, 141, 282); 78. Katrina Douglas (142, 142, 284); 79. Alison Nicholas (143, 143, 286); 80. Sofia Gronberg (144, 144, 288); 81. Katrina Douglas (145, 145, 290); 82. Alison Nicholas (146, 146, 292); 83. Sofia Gronberg (147, 147, 294); 84. Katrina Douglas (148, 148, 296); 85. Alison Nicholas (149, 149, 298); 86. Sofia Gronberg (150, 150, 300); 87. Katrina Douglas (151, 151, 302); 88. Alison Nicholas (152, 152, 304); 89. Sofia Gronberg (153, 153, 306); 90. Katrina Douglas (154, 154, 308); 91. Alison Nicholas (155, 155, 310); 92. Sofia Gronberg (156, 156, 312); 93. Katrina Douglas (157, 157, 314); 94. Alison Nicholas (158, 158, 316); 95. Sofia Gronberg (159, 159, 318); 96. Katrina Douglas (160, 160, 320); 97. Alison Nicholas (161, 161, 322); 98. Sofia Gronberg (162, 162, 324); 99. Katrina Douglas (163, 163, 326); 100. Alison Nicholas (164, 164, 328); 101. Sofia Gronberg (165, 165, 330); 102. Katrina Douglas (166, 166, 332); 103. Alison Nicholas (167, 167, 334); 104. Sofia Gronberg (168, 168, 336); 105. Katrina Douglas (169, 169, 338); 106. Alison Nicholas (170, 170, 340); 107. Sofia Gronberg (171, 171, 342); 108. Katrina Douglas (172, 172, 344); 109. 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Katrina Douglas (199, 199, 398); 136. Alison Nicholas (200, 200, 400); 137. Sofia Gronberg (201, 201, 402); 138. Katrina Douglas (202, 202, 404); 139. Alison Nicholas (203, 203, 406); 140. Sofia Gronberg (204, 204, 408); 141. Katrina Douglas (205, 205, 410); 142. Alison Nicholas (206, 206, 412); 143. Sofia Gronberg (207, 207, 414); 144. Katrina Douglas (208, 208, 416); 145. Alison Nicholas (209, 209, 418); 146. Sofia Gronberg (210, 210, 420); 147. Katrina Douglas (211, 211, 422); 148. Alison Nicholas (212, 212, 424); 149. Sofia Gronberg (213, 213, 426); 150. Katrina Douglas (214, 214, 428); 151. Alison Nicholas (215, 215, 430); 152. Sofia Gronberg (216, 216, 432); 153. Katrina



## SPORT

## The changing face of the athletics world

AS THE flag of the German Democratic Republic was raised at an athletics event for the last time, under a huge rainbow across a darkening Croatian sky for the 4 x 400 metres women's relay team, there was more than just one era ending in the world of athletics.

The European championships, which were close to cancellation a month ago because of political and financial crises, were, in the event, a brilliant festival: thanks to the beguiling Yugoslav capacity for improvisation, the charm of the Dalmatian people and the patient tolerance of inefficiencies by visitors. Yet athletics is never, in several senses, going to be the same again.

The changing socio-political world, in Eastern Europe, in the developing Far East and in Africa, will see a vastly different map of athletic power being formed in the remaining years leading to the 21st

DAVID MILLER  
CHIEF SPORTS  
CORRESPONDENT

century; not to mention the influence, evident but unmeasurable in Split, of random drug-testing. Were South Africa to be readmitted to the stage, an increasing likelihood, their multiracial team would probably take a place in the top four in the world.

Whether Britain can retain even its European position, in which, of a record 15 medals last week, eight, plus half of the marvellous concluding men's relay victory, were provided by black runners, remains to be seen. Social as much as athletic factors will determine this. As Linford Christie has observed, athletics offers the motive of a short cut to adult

achievements, given self discipline, for the less privileged, there is no ready-made place in society waiting for them.

Andy Norman, that taciturn, somewhat shadowy figure who is the British board's promotions officer, has seen more life in the raw than most: whether feeling collared in the Met; or negotiating and arranging athletics meetings across the breadth of Europe, including determining the field for key races in the former tricky period of unofficial professionalism. He understands better than many what makes people run; and it is not necessarily money.

"Athletics is part of life, it is not separate from the rest of society," Norman said yesterday. "Many of the East Europeans are unable, as yet, to adjust to the new freedom, to not being told minute by minute what to do; to find new forms of self-discipline. Suddenly

their national sports committees are having to work to a budget, never having heard of one before."

Although East Germany and the Soviet Union took 24 and 12 women's medals respectively, and 10 each of the men's, the rest of Eastern Europe managed only eight medals, out of a total 120. And nobody can tell what will happen when East Germany becomes absorbed by its adjacent relations.

Petra Felke, the javelin world record holder, who is coming to terms with a new life of fast Japanese cars and an entrepreneurial boyfriend, could finish only third behind Alfranti, of Finland. How will the devastatingly fast and lissome Katrin Krabbe, who clearly is in not the slightest doubt about how good she is, react to the material surroundings of big brother Kohl? Will the formerly "democratic"

German women still achieve 24 medals or will a life of greater comfort reduce them to the level of the Federal Republic's three women's medals here in Split? It is an irony that so much of what was the sporting "miracle machine" of the past 30 years, a unique epoch in the history of man's athleticism, is now going to be lost in the unification — 600 coaches redundant, specialist schools closed — with the other half of Germany, whose performance, as a reflection of national investment (seven medals), was a disaster.

And what of the Soviet Union? Igor Ter-Ovanesyan, their team manager, says that their prime objective, under national policy, for this year was the Goodwill Games; and this reflected on their European performances. From way back, their next objective after Seattle was the World Cup in Tokyo next year. Yet, Ter-

Ovanesyan admits to frustration at the democracy of administration in the Gorbachev era; decisions taking five weeks instead of five minutes. So now he knows how the British Board operates! As Norman says cryptically, the only way to operate is with a committee of two, and apology for absence from one of them.

The Soviet Union did not win a single men's medal on the track and East Germany only four. How much this is a reflection of random testing we cannot tell, but the factor is relevant. This too, thankfully, is changing the face of the sport.

Britain had a thrilling battle day by day on the track with the French and Italians, culminating with the French world record in the sprint relay and Britain's European record in the four-lap relay, with John Regis's phenom-

enal third leg of 43.9sec, which destroyed the formidable Schoenlebe, of East Germany. Cram, Christie and Alabusi, all thirtyish, cannot last much longer, and Elliott's best is maybe behind him. McKean, Black, Jackson and others are there to maintain a new position and to offer inspiration to the next generation.

Black's performance in coming back from two years of injury to retain his title was, for me, the most moving moment of the championships, closely followed by Yvonne Murray's superbly-judged run, the almost equally fine, but falling, effort of Mark Rowland and the game performance of Gary Staines in the 5,000 metres and reserve Geoff Wightman, sixth, in the marathon. I hope it was all as exhilarating to watch at home as it was here in sunny, historic, Dalmatia.

## Time arrives for women's team to take centre stage

FROM DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
SPLIT

ON THE weekend that Britain completed its best performance in the European championships, the British Amateur Athletic Board has been accused by one of its team managers here of "pushing the women under the carpet because they are an embarrassment."

Britain won nine gold medals at the six-day championships, one more than the record eight set in 1950 and equalled in 1986. Only one, however, was won by a woman, Yvonne Murray in the 3,000 metres, and Joan Allison, the women's team manager, said that a radical change in attitude was needed to prevent them from remaining the poor relations.

"The same opportunities are not there for the women," Allison said. "I happened to find out by accident the fixtures for next year and they were planning two televised matches for the men and leaving the women out. Basically, they are saying: 'Let's push the women under the carpet because they are an embarrassment.'"

"You have got to keep the men and women together. They are a team. The women want to be successful too. If next year we start dividing men and women it's the end."

Allison's concern was endorsed by Frank Dick, the national director of coaching, who can take much of the credit for Britain's success in these championships. "It is

## Final medals table

Men	Women
Great Britain	East Germany
Soviet Union	West Germany
Italy	Yugoslavia
East Germany	France
France	Poland
West Germany	Czechoslovakia
Yugoslavia	Spain
Czechoslovakia	Hungary
Spain	Sweden
Hungary	Bulgaria
Sweden	Norway
Bulgaria	Netherlands
Norway	Poland
Netherlands	Austria
Poland	Portugal
Austria	
Portugal	

clear there has been inequality of opportunity for female athletes," Dick said. "There is an attitude that men's athletics is important and women's athletics is not."

Allison, whose term of office includes the world championships next year and the 1992 Olympics, said that she had written to the BAAB chairman, Marica Hartman, and that the issue would be "thrashed out" at a meeting between the team management and the board's joint standing committee in the next week. "If we can develop our sport alongside the men we will get better," Allison added. "It worries me greatly

that it was proposed to split them up next year."

Les Jones, a joint standing committee official and the men's team manager, conceded that something had to be done.

"We have to develop the sport as a whole and if that means spending money on one section which is not as strong as the other we should do it," he said.

Tony Ward, the BAAB spokesman, said: "The sport recognises that we must have positive discrimination towards certain women athletes who have performed well in the European championships. It is clear that we have to look hard at the women athletes in Great Britain and help them in every way possible — in coaching and competition."

Allison used the case of Linda Keough, who finished fifth in the 400 metres, to colour her argument. "Linda has had no opportunities to race (on the international circuit) in the last few years," Allison said.

Ward said the board would probably respond to such cases. "Linda is someone who is now on the brink of world class and we have to keep her," Ward said.

The British men who won gold medals were Linford Christie (100 metres), John Regis (200 metres), Roger Black (400 metres), Colin McKean (800 metres), Colin Jackson (110 metres hurdles), Kriss Akabusi (400 metres hurdles), Steve Backley (javelin) and the 4 x 400 metres relay team.

## Bordin has London in his sights

FROM DAVID POWELL

GELINDO Bordin, who retained his European marathon title here on Saturday, is planning an attempt on the world's best time in the London Marathon next year. It would be the first race in which Bordin, who is the Olympic champion, has had something other than victory on his mind.

Bordin's fastest marathon, 2hr 08min 20sec, was set on the difficult Boston course in April. The world best is 2:06:50 and Bordin's planning represents a change of heart. After Boston, he said: "Competing is the important thing, not the world record."

His winning time here, 2hr 14min 02sec, was slow because of high humidity and an undulating four-lap circuit. "London is an easy course and, if my training goes well, I will try to break the world record," Bordin said.

The Italian achieved victory in Split by the gradual application of pressure. With each lap, he went faster, recording successive 10 kilometre times of 32min 41sec, 31:59, 31:26 and 31:19. After three laps, the leading group was down to four: the two other Italians, Giovanni Poli and Salvatore Bettiol, and the Frenchman, Dominique Chauvelier.

Bordin knew he had the beating of the others, provided he controlled his run. Geoff Wightman, Britain's only starter, had the same idea. He was last out of the stadium but his steady start paid dividends. He finished sixth, a commendable performance for one who was selected as an afterthought.

Results, page 39



Take that: Sinclair keeps Bristol City's goal at bay with a mighty punch in yesterday's match at Swindon

## Swindon's charge is unavailing

By LOUISE TAYLOR

Swindon Town ..... 0  
Bristol City ..... 1

BRISTOL City added credence to the maxim that fortune favours the brave at the County Ground yesterday. Apparently undaunted by Swindon's Wembley exploits last May, not to mention a 100 per cent League record this season, City — just up from the third division — arrived as poor relations but departed in possession of both the points and the plaudits.

They did so by transforming an early spontaneous cavalry charge against them into an altogether more sophisticated stop passing, sharp tackling game which bodes well for their prospects this season.

Swindon had initially threatened to swamp City, whose defence might as well have been knee deep in a bog when Simpson feinted this way and that on the right before finding Kerstake with a centre. His shot had Sinclair saving at full stretch.

But although Foley, Close and Bodin again enjoyed early chances to establish a home lead, City proved to be quick learners. They were soon closing

Swindon down, chasing and chivvying to deny the likes of Simpson the time needed to construct their characteristic mesmerizing diamond patterned attacking build-ups.

Suddenly City had summoned up the audacity to play Swindon at their own possession game pinning them back deep into their own half. The reward came in the 31st minute when Bodin, deep in his own territory completely misread the ball, permitting Taylor to unleash a long punt which flew at least 50 yards to the feet of Junior Bent, aged 20.

Finding himself onside and

with only Digby between him and the back of the net, Bent — who was sending sparks flying among the Swindon rearguard — retained his composure sufficiently to cut inside and send the Swindon goalkeeper diving to his left in vain. It was not a bad way for Bent to claim his first goal in his first full league game for City.

City were worthy of the lead, but with their back four palpably lacking in pace, Swindon always threatened. Indeed, if Simpson had been less self indulgent and less prone to over elaboration, and their forwards had not been so dogmatic about shooting straight at Sinclair's stomach,

the score could have been different.

Instead, Swindon almost had cause to further rue such error-strewn profligacy when Rennie's delightful back heel found Smith whose shot proved unequal to the build-up.

McLoughlin, recovered from a hernia operation, replaced Close at half-time and would immediately have equalized had he shot rather than stumbled over Simpson's left wing centre.

Similarly, Jones' exquisite chip should have gifted Foley a chance, but once again he shot straight at the goalkeeper's midriff.

At the opposite end, Gittens desperately headed off the line from Taylor following a surging run from the precocious Bent, but as defeat loomed, Swindon belatedly attempted to turn the screw.

Although Sinclair had to tip Gittens' header from Simpson's cross on to the bar in the 90th minute, it was a case of too little too late.

Swindon's transfer from Luton to a permanent one, Leighton's security was further undermined in the World Cup finals, where he was at fault for the decisive goal by Brazil against Scotland in Turin.

After United had made Sealey's transfer from Luton a permanent one, Leighton's security was further undermined in the World Cup finals, where he was at fault for the decisive goal by Brazil against Scotland in Turin.

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## Chang is among seeds to fall

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT  
NEW YORK

IVAN Lendl and Boris Becker yesterday stayed on course for a repeat of their 1989 final at the United States Open tennis championships.

Lendl beat Gild Bloom, 6-0, 6-3, 6-4, to reach the quarter-final for the tenth time in the last 11 years, and Becker continued his impressive form against Tomas Carbonell, of Spain, winning 6-4, 6-2, 6-2. Becker now meets Darren Cahill in the fourth round.

Four further seeds fell from the third round of the men's singles: Brad Gilbert (eight), Andrei Chesnokov (ten), Michael Chang (11), and Goran Ivanisevic (15), the first and last of those after winning the first two sets. The most surprising defeat was Chang's. He was beaten in straight sets by Andrei Cherkasov, ranked 50.

Andre Agassi came calmly through a routine match against Franco Davin and will play fellow American Jay Berger in the fourth round today. Shorn of excitement on the court, the American created his own off it by accusing Wayne McKenna, the Australian umpire at the eye of the storm surrounding Agassi's third-round match against Petr Korda, of having a personal grudge against him.

"I really felt that things were personal out there and that the umpire was looking to give me a warning," said Agassi in reaction to the \$3,000 fine imposed on him for swearing and spitting at McKenna. "If someone else had been in the chair, the whole incident would have been taken place. Everybody is to blame, it seems, except Agassi."

Also in hot water over the weekend was Ivanisevic, the Wimbledon semi-finalist, and Ken Flach, the American Davis Cup player. Ivanisevic, the talented but temperamental Yugoslav, admitted to "tanking" tennis, giving up, in the fifth set of his third-round match against Cahill. The No. 15 seed had surrendered a two-set lead to the Australian and was so upset with himself he won only four points in the final set.

The definition of tanking is imprecise. It ranges from deliberately losing a match, which is an offence, to giving up mentally, which is not. Ken Farrar, the tournament supervisor, preferred the latter interpretation and took no action. "This is a young man who is 18 years old, speaks broken English, and mis-constructed the use of the term 'tank'," said Farrar.

Ivanisevic has shot to prominence since the French Open and his mind is struggling to cope with his talent. "It was stupid," said Ivanisevic, "but I am going to learn a lot from this match."

Flach's volatile temper flared up again in the first round of the mixed doubles, of all places. Flach and his partner Patty Fendick were trailing 5-2 in the final set when Flach, who had been questioning calls throughout the match, simply walked off court after a disagreement with his partner.

Flach was fined \$2,700 for ball abuse and defaulting and was immediately suspended from the men's doubles. Hopefully, Steffi Graf and Jennifer Capriati, who meet today in a repeat of their Wimbledon fourth-round match, will restore some joy to proceedings.

Results, page 39

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